

THE LITERARY GAZETTE.

A Journal of Literature, Science, and Art,

AND RECORD OF UNIVERSITY, ECCLESIASTICAL, EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

No. 195 (2355).—VOL. VIII. NEW SERIES.] LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1862.

PRICE 3d., Stamped 4d.

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN.—Candidates for the Fullerian Professorship of Physiology are requested to apply in writing to the Honorary Secretary, R.L., on or before Saturday, May 3, 1862.

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NOTICE TO ARTISTS.—All Works of Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, or Engraving, intended for the ensuing EXHIBITION at the ROYAL ACADEMY, must be sent in on MONDAY, the 7th, or TUESDAY, the 18th of April next, after which time no Work can possibly be received, nor can any Works be received which have already been publicly exhibited.

It is proposed to Open the Exhibition Rooms on certain Evenings of the week during the latter part of the season. FRAMES.—All Pictures and Drawings must be in gilt frames. Oil Paintings under glass, and Drawings with wide margins are inadmissible. Excessive breadth in frames as well as projecting mouldings may prevent Pictures obtaining the situation they otherwise merit. The other Regulations necessary to be observed may be obtained at the Royal Academy.

Every possible care will be taken of Works sent for exhibition, but the Royal Academy will not hold itself accountable in any case of injury or loss, nor can it undertake to pay the carriage of any package.

The prices of Works to be disposed of may be communicated to the Secretary.

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METROPOLITAN SHOW, 1862.

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A. PANIZZI, Principal Librarian.
British Museum, 10th March, 1862.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1862.

REVIEWS.

The Dean of Lismore's Book, a Selection of Ancient Gaelic Poetry. Translated by the Rev. T. M'Lauchlan; with an Introduction, by W. F. Skene, Esq. Edmonston and Douglas.

WILL Mr. Home, Mr. Foster, or some other of our eminent spiritualist "mediums," have the kindness to ascertain for us, at an early *séance*, the effect produced upon the shade of our great lexicographer by the novel and more definite phase into which the Ossianic controversy has passed, under the light of more searching inquiries into the history and archæology of the mythic ages? Has it gone any way towards mitigating the wrath of the uncompromising old despot of letters, and laying aside the lash wherewith he threatened to pursue the unhappy Macpherson even out of the body to the utmost confines of Hades? Has he extended to the detested Scotchman the right hand of reconciliation, as no longer the unqualified forger and literary impostor? If not, we fear old Samuel's rest may be sadly broken, if publications like that before us circulate through spirit-circles, and we should expect to hear sundry expletives, in the old familiar style, "rapped" out, if our library table were to be "turned" for the nonce for the purposes of that mystic interpellation.

The Dean of Lismore's collection of Gaelic poetry has long been felt by Celtic scholars to form one of the most important *pièces de conviction* in the trial of Macpherson's truthfulness and Ossian's authenticity, and the publication of its contents has ever been a great desideratum to the lovers both of Scottish and Irish antiquities. With many other treasures of early Gaelic literature it was first disinterred from obscurity in the middle of the last century by the efforts of the Highland Society, and transferred by them to the custody of the sister society of the same name in Scotland, when a committee was engaged in an inquiry into the authenticity of the Ossianic poems, then lately published by Macpherson. Since that time it has found its way, along with other Gaelic manuscripts in the possession of that Society, to the Library of the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh. Vast credit is due to the translator, the Rev. T. M'Lauchlan, for the indomitable spirit, patience, and ability, which he has displayed in preparing the volume for publication. To decipher and copy the Dean's transcript was itself no ordinary task, the difficulties of a careless handwriting of the beginning of the sixteenth century being unfortunately complicated by those of faded ink and decayed paper, and, above all, a peculiar and strange orthography, affording little or no clue to the original word. He had then to convert the text into the corresponding Gaelic in its modern shape and orthographic system; and, finally, translate it into English, with a due regard at once to idiomatic correctness and an intelligible exhibition of its meaning. The preface, contributed by Mr. W. F. Skene, contains brief notices of the compiler's family, the contents of his volume, its bearing upon the Ossianic controversy in general, and the philological and historical relations between the Scottish, Irish, and other branches of the great Celtic family of nations.

The family of Macgregor had at the beginning of the sixteenth century been long settled in the clachan or little village of Fortingall, anciently called Fothergill, lying in a secluded vale in the heart of the Perthshire Highlands, not far from the northern shore of Loch Tay. An ancestor, the vicar of Fortingall, had, at the time when the Catholic Church was passing through the incipient throes of the Reformation, and her benefices were passing into the hands of laymen, secured for himself and his descendants the vicarage of Fortingall and a lease of the church lands. His great-grandson, James, in addition to his family living and his patrimonial tenure as *firmarius* of the church lands, attained to other posts of distinction and emolument. He appears, in 1511 A.D., as a notary public, an office then held by ecclesiastics, along with his father, Dougall Maol, the "bald" or tonsured, of Tullichmullin. And in the year 1514 we find him Dean of Lismore, which (we need hardly warn our least geographical readers) is not to be confounded with the episcopal and decanal city of Waterford, but is an island of but eight thousand square acres in extent, with a population short of fourteen hundred, lying off the coast of Argyllshire, between the districts of Lorn and Morvern, and at that time the episcopal seat of the Bishops of Argyll. The title of "Sir James," or "Dominus Jacobus," (passed over without notice by the editor) must not delude the reader into the idea that the Dean had risen to the rank of knight-hood or baronetage. The designation "Sir" is of familiar occurrence till a comparatively recent period as applied to ecclesiastics, as the usage of Shakspeare and our earlier dramatists is sufficient to vouch. It was not however, strictly speaking, an ecclesiastical title, but the proper academical equivalent for the degree of B.A., and as such continues still in statutable use in both our English Universities. Whether the same usage has at any time been general in Scotland we are disposed to doubt, and are inclined to look upon the assumption of that title by the Dean as a sign of his having possibly enjoyed a southern education, and taken baccalaureate rank at either Oxford or Cambridge. He died in the year 1551, "on the day of S. Lucie" (December 13), and was buried in the old church of Inchadun.

A stigma is cast without reason upon the memory of this dignitary, by the editor's bare and unexplained statement, that "in 1557, Gregor and Dougall Macgregors, natural sons of Sir James Macgregor, receive letters of legitimation." The struggle of the priesthood against enforced celibacy, never altogether relaxed under the Papal usurpation, was carried on with increasing manfulness and frequency as the principles of the Reformation gained ground, and many were the ecclesiastics of all ranks and orders who vindicated their natural rights by boldly taking to themselves wives in the face of day. Such alliances were not, however, for a considerable period sanctioned by the Church or the civil power, and letters of legitimation had frequently to be applied for under the Privy Seal, in order to establish the *status* of the offspring. Analogous to the present case is that of the act of the legislature of England in 1563, restoring in blood the two surviving children of Archbishop Cranmer, his marriage with the niece of Osiander having been pronounced null at the time of his attainder and execution.

Aided by his younger brother Duncan, who, by a custom not uncommon in those clannish days, acted as servitor or amanuensis to the elder, and was like him bred in the atmosphere of Highland fable, and imbued with the love

of Highland minstrelsy, Dean Macgregor collected and transcribed into a commonplace book the traditional Gaelic poetry obtained from all quarters. This is the collection which is now set before us. The greater portion of it appears to have been formed as early as the year 1512. How and by whom it was preserved till it passed as aforesaid into the hands of the Highland Society of London is not known. The original manuscript quarto volume of three hundred and eleven pages, is written in the ancient Roman hand of the period. It differs from the ordinary class of Celtic manuscripts, not only in being written in this character instead of what is called the Irish, but also in the mode in which its contents are reduced to words. The language is not written in the orthography used in writing Irish, and now universally employed in writing Scotch Gaelic, but in a peculiar kind of phonetic orthography; the words being presented as they are pronounced in English; similar in effect to the usage familiarized to us, in respect to both Highland and Lowland dialects by Walter Scott and Burns. The phonetic method is naturally most advantageous in retaining the pronunciation of a language which might otherwise pass into desuetude.

Celtic students will be bound, however, to acknowledge the zeal and industry of the translator, who not content with printing his own literal transcript of the Dean's Gaelic text, has placed side by side with it a version into modern orthography, almost tantamount to a new translation:—

"The present spoken language of the Highlands of Scotland is, as is well known, a dialect of that great branch of the Celtic languages termed the Gwyddelian or Gaelic, and to which belong also the Irish and Manx, or spoken language of the Isle of Man. These three dialects of the Gaelic branch of the Celtic languages, the Irish, the Scotch Gaelic, and the Manx, approach each other so nearly, as to form in fact but one language; and the peculiarities which distinguish them from one another are not of a nature sufficiently broad or vital to constitute either of them a distinct language. . . .

"The Scotch Gaelic is spoken in its greatest purity in the central districts of the Highlands, including Mull, Morvern, Ardnamurchan, Ardgower, Appin, Lochaber, and that district termed the Garbh chrìochan, or rough bounds, consisting of Arisaig, Moydart, Moror, and Knoydart. The language here spoken is characterized by a closer adherence to grammatical rules, by a fuller and more careful pronunciation of the vowel sounds, by a selection of the best words to express the idea, and by their use in their primary sense.

"In the county of Argyll, and the islands which face the coast of Ireland, the language approaches much more nearly to the Ulster dialect of the Irish, there being probably no perceptible difference between the form of the language in Isla and Rachrin, or in Cantyre and the opposite coast of Antrim."

The language spoken by the Highlanders of Scotland is styled by them simply Gaelic; the name of Erse, occasionally bestowed upon it during the last few centuries by the Lowlanders, being repudiated by them as a term of reproach. "Albanaich" is the title they prefer to apply to themselves. At the battle of the Standard the Scottish war-shout of *Albany, Albany!* was answered in derision by the English with *Yri, Yri!* The philological differences between them are of importance, as bearing upon the moot question of assigning to the Ossianic legends a Scottish or Irish origin:—

"Two races seem to have entered, as original elements, into the population of Ireland and of the Highlands of Scotland. These were the race of the Scots, and the people termed by the early Irish authorities the race of the Cruithne. The latter appear everywhere to have preceded the former.

"Prior to the sixth century the Cruithne alone seem to have formed the population of the Scotch Highlands. In Ireland they formed the original population of Ulster and the north part of Leinster. Connaught, the rest of Leinster, and Munster, were Scottish."

Early in the sixth century seems to have taken place the first settlement of the Scots from Ireland on the opposite coast of Argyll, where their tribe retained the ancestral name of Dalriada, derived from that of its mythic founder. The rest of the Highlands continued to be occupied by the Cruithne, who were Pagans, while the Dalriadic Scots were Christians. This movement was followed up in the year 563 by the mission of St. Columba, a Scot from Ireland, to convert the Cruithne to the Christian faith, and the foundation of the monastery of Iona, the great seat of learning and missionary enterprise until its destruction by Scandinavian pirates in the year 802. Irish influence was further exerted through the powerful dynasty of the Lords of the Isles, whose purely Celtic pedigree, tracing back to the beginning of the fourth century, may be held disputable, but whose spirit and tendency was essentially Hibernian. The tie was knit still closer by the marriage of the head of that race with a daughter of the great Irish house of O'Cathán towards the close of the thirteenth century, followed by a migration of four and twenty families in the lady's train from Ulster to the Scottish Highlands. Repeated quarrels between the Lords of the Isles and the Crown terminated at length in the utter extinction of the petty kingdom of the former in the year 1545.

These circumstances tend to explain the close connection, not political only, but literary, which bound together the Scottish Highlands and Isles with Ireland. The Irish bards and sennachies were heads of a school which included the western coast of Scotland, and those of Scotland were either of Irish descent or reared in the bardic schools of Erin. Many poems of unmistakably Irish origin are thus found in the Dean of Lismore's compilation—

"There are poems by the Irish bards, whose schools extended also to the Highlands, by the O'Dalys, who lived during the fifteenth century; by Teague og O'Higgin, who died in 1448; by Dermot O'Hiffernan; and by Turn O'Meilleobhair, Ollav of the Sil Murray, who died in 1468. There are poems by Allan M'Ruadrie and Gilleanall Mac an Olla, who seem to have been native bards; by John of Knoydart, who celebrates the murder of the young Lord of the Isles by his Irish harper in 1490; by Finlay M'Nab, called the Good Poet; and by the transcriber of the greater part of the manuscript, Duncan, the Dean's brother, who wrote in praise of the M'Gregors."

But the chief value of the Dean's MS. lies in its containing no fewer than twenty-eight strictly Ossianic poems, extending to upwards of 2500 lines, nine directly attributed to Ossian, two to Farris or Ferghus Filidh, and one to Caoilte M'Ronan, the three bards of the Feine, two to Allan M'Ruadrie, and one to Gilleanall Mac an Olla, bards hitherto unknown, besides eleven anonymous poems in the style and on the themes of Ossian.

Is then the authorship of the Ossianic poetry to be handed over bodily to Irish bards, as the efforts of the Dublin Gaelic Society, the Royal Irish Academy, and the Ossianic Society of Ireland, have been devoted to establish? Is the Ossian of Macpherson to be dismissed as a convicted fabrication? Is Scotland to be denied the possession of any true Ossianic poetry whatever? and is Ireland to be hailed as the sole birthplace of any genuine Fenian romances? By no means, argues Mr. Skene.

First, Macpherson never was in Ireland, or had access to Irish sources of information. Secondly, the Dean of Lismore's book presents indubitably Ossianic remains, collected in the Scottish Islands upwards of three hundred years ago. We could have wished that some at least of the present collection had been proved identical with those given by Macpherson. To such identity Mr. Skene asserts no claim, but tacitly seems to acquiesce in the conclusion that little more than the floating myth or legend of the Feine was caught up by that ingenious writer and his brother; theirs being the filling up of the poetic outline, and the clothing it with pomp and rhythm of a grandly swelling diction entirely their own. Whether there exist materials of a reliable character for relegating the race of the Feine, who chiefly figure in these poems, to a Scottish or an Irish soil, or whether Finn or Fingal, or his father, or his son Ossian Comkall are to be regarded as historical personages, we confess, after reading the conflicting evidence advanced in this latest dissertation, to more serious doubt than ever. We can imagine the superb disdain with which the shadowy structure would be crushed to powder in few words by Sir Cornewall Lewis, fresh from the demolition of the entire fabric of Egyptian and Babylonian, as well as early Roman literature. And we see nothing for it but to apply to the case of the heroic Fingal the same principle of mythic dilatation which is adduced by our editor to explain the diverse legends of St. Patrick. That holy man, under the light of authentic investigation, dissolves into three personages:—

"Sen-Patricius, whose day in the calendar is the 24th August; Palladius, *qui est Patricius*, to whom the mission in 432 properly belongs, and who is said to have retired to Alban or Scotland, where he died among the Cruithne; and Patricius, whose day is the 17th of March, and to whom alone a certain date can be assigned, for he died, in the chronological period, in the year 493; and from the acts of these three saints the subsequent legend of the great apostle of Ireland was compiled, and an arbitrary chronology applied to it."

Hence the popular ascription to the saint, in former days, of a multiple nativity, though mature reflection and august authority have since satisfied his countrymen "no one can have two birthdays but a twins." Whether Fingal (or Finn, for the termination *gal* appears to be a mere unmeaning expletive) was born east or west of the Irish Channel may probably be superseded by a far more simple interrogation—whether the hero had existence at all. Still, be he and his exploits mythic or historical, the question cannot be thought to detract wholly, in a literary sense, from the value of a body of poetry, indubitably primitive in origin, as well as simply grand and picturesque in style. We extract a short specimen of Mr. M'Lauchlan's translation, which in literal force and native simplicity approaches nearer to the original than does the turgid and often bombastic metre of Macpherson:—

"The author of this is Ossian:

"Here have I seen the Feine,
I have seen Conan and Gaul,
Finn, and Oscar my son,
Ryno, Art, and brown-haired Diarmad,
Brave M'Lay, he of noble mien,
The red-haired Garry, also Hugh the less,
Hugh Garry's son, who never quailed,
The three Fin, and with them Fead,
Glass and Gow and Garry,
The long-haired Galve, and the impetuous Conan;
Gaul and Croon, Gaul's son,
Socach, the son of Finn and Bran;
Caoilte, the son of warlike Ronan,
Who swiftest ran, and leaped o'er valleys,
The readiest to scatter gold,
One of them of sweetest voice;
Bayne, son of Brissil of the sword,
The son of Cronchin, son of Smail,
And Oscar, son of powerful Garry,

The three Balas, and the three Skalls,
Three battalions from Glenstroll,
Three bands from Monaree;
Caoilte's seven sons best trained to fight;
The three named Glass from Glassranansair;
The three Beths from Cnokandurd,
Three of unfailing excellence;
Deach Fichid's son from Borruinn mor,
Of them who always conquered.
Here have I seen the Feine
Whose liberal hand did music buy,
Ranged around Ossian and Finn,
Traversing valleys to dispense their gold.
Fearon and brave Carroll were there,
Who never fought but where they won.
I sing them, and generous Felan,
All of whom here have I seen,
Here have I seen."

The Druzes and the Maronites under the Turkish Rule, from 1840 to 1860. By Colonel Churchill, Author of *Ten Years' Residence in Mount Lebanon*, 1853. Quaritch.

No war at its commencement was ever more popular in this country than was that proclaimed in the Supplement of the *London Gazette* of Tuesday, March 28th, 1854, in conjunction with our august ally the Emperor of the French, against the Emperor of All the Russias, ostensibly for the purpose of maintaining the integrity of the Ottoman dominions against the encroachments of the Czar. We all remember with what unwillingness our Prime Minister at the time, good and worthy but vacillating Lord Aberdeen, embarked in the perilous enterprise; we remember also, to our cost, the numerous shortcomings of the administration—let us say rather the shameful mismanagement that presided over the Crimean campaign; we remember Mr. Roebuck's motion for a committee of inquiry, and the consequent withdrawal of Lord John Russell from the Ministry, because he could not conscientiously declare that such inquiry was not needed; and we recollect the declaration subsequently made by Mr. Gladstone, upon the conclusion of the war, that it cost us in money nearly sixty millions sterling, while the loss of life to ourselves alone amounted, at the lowest calculation, to twenty-three thousand men and officers of the finest army that England ever sent forth to fight. We concluded that war mainly to suit the convenience of our august ally, having only partially humbled Russia by the capture of Sebastopol; but we left the condition of Turkey in Europe and the East very nearly, we are sorry to say, in the same state that we found it. If anything, the "sick man" was even more sick at its conclusion than he was at its commencement.

Not five years had elapsed since the expenditure of all this blood and treasure—an expenditure, which, placed side by side with the French loss of 63,000 men and the Turkish and Sardinian of at least 30,000 more, while that of the Russians amounted to about 300,000, gives a total of more than 400,000 lives sacrificed in the campaign—and lo! instead of any symptoms of regeneration taking place in the Turkish Empire, early in the summer of 1860 all Europe was startled from its dream of peace and tranquillity in the East by the dire intelligence, that at that very time one of the most horrible massacres that ever disgraced humanity was being perpetrated by the Druzes of the Lebanon upon the Syrian Christians; and this with the connivance, to use the mildest term, of the Turkish officials and soldiery! What wonder if we all exclaimed, "This then is the reward of all the heroic exertions of France and England to save that wretched Ottoman Empire from destruction! Have we then just galvanized the moribund 'sick man' into so much life, merely that he may use it to kill our fellow-

Christians?" No, we all agreed, better even the Muscovite at Constantinople than this! Still there was some hope that, after all, things might not be so bad as they had been represented. Members of Parliament asked questions, and Ministers in their replies did their utmost to calm the excitement. But all to no purpose. Every post brought additional news and more frightful details. It was a war of extermination that had been proclaimed against the hapless Christians by their savage enemies in the mountains; and the latter were manifestly encouraged by the Turkish authorities in carrying out their barbarous designs. As time wore on, all this was still more clearly shown, and a convention was entered into by the great Powers, including the Sultan, for landing a body of French troops on the coast, in order if possible to restore tranquillity; while the Turkish Government pledged itself to inflict condign punishment upon the guilty. All this was done, and more; the story of which has been partially told in our Blue-books, but much more completely in this welcome little volume from the pen of Colonel Churchill.

Colonel Churchill, who has resided for nearly twenty years in the Lebanon, might be considered on that ground alone fully qualified to speak of the mutual relations existing between the Turks, Christians, and Druzes of that district, but he long ago showed his powers of observation and judgment on the subject in his publication, entitled *Mount Lebanon, a Ten Years' Residence, from 1842 to 1852*, a work that was cordially received by the public, and to which the present volume may be regarded as a sequel. That work gave evidence of his having taken infinite pains to make himself acquainted with the politics of the Lebanon; and in the present he assures us "that his analysis of sectarian and political motives, whether Druze or Maronite, is based upon intimate and unreserved communication with both parties, and that his delineations of character are drawn from personal experience." Under such guidance, therefore, we feel safe in now directing the attention of our readers to a few of the most prominent features of Turkish misrule, as exemplified in the Syrian massacres of 1860.

Colonel Churchill commences his work with a brief account of the history of the Druzes from their first appearance in the Lebanon about the eleventh century. The name Druzes or Druses, as it is more commonly spelled, is derived from a certain Neshtakeen Darazi, a missionary who had been sent into Syria by Hamzé, the vizier of Hakem, the Fatimite Caliph then reigning in Egypt, to preach the doctrine of the divinity of that successor of Ali. Already in the eighth century there was a sect of believers who taught that Ali and his successors were eminently impregnated with the divine essence. Hamzé, one of its chief ulemas, merely pushed this doctrine to the utmost by proclaiming the absolute divinity of his master, Hakem. The doctrine immediately obtained numerous adherents: in Morocco, in Persia, in Syria, and even in India. Neshtakeen Darazi preached it with the utmost success in the Lebanon, but at length, elated by prosperity, he declared himself the head of the sect, and in order to obtain converts sanctioned the most licentious principles. For this he was deposed from his functions by Hamzé, and finally assassinated by some of his own followers in Wady-el-Tamé. His successor in the Lebanon was Moktana Baha-edeén. "He it was who may be said to have placed the Druze religion on the basis on which it at present stands. His numerous tracts and epistles have ever been

the chief subjects of study and contemplation in the Druze Holorvés." The libertinism taught by Darazi, however, was too seducing to be entirely eradicated, the consequence being that to this day there are two sects of Druzes, both believing in Hakem and Hamzé, but one following the orthodox moral and religious teaching of Baha-edeén, and the other the dark and unscrupulous libertinism of Darazi. After the death of Hakem in 1025, the Druzes were subjected to a severe persecution, and found safety only among the fastnesses of the Lebanon. There they held their meetings in secluded places, and adopted a cabalistic language for mutual recognition in case of obligatory dispersion. All proselytism now ceased among them. "The Druze religion became an hereditary privilege, a sacred deposit, a priceless treasure, to be jealously guarded from profane curiosity. The Druzes henceforward acquired strength and importance simply by their own increasing numbers." The persecution having ceased, the Druzes increased in prosperity, paying nominal allegiance to the Mussulman rule, but in reality governed by their own chieftains, whose castles crowned the most commanding sites in the Lebanon. In their prosperity they showed themselves tolerant towards the religion of their neighbours, whether Christians or Mohammedans, and they even accepted the Mohammedan family of Maan, which had been introduced among them, and invested with feudal jurisdiction over them by Sultan Nouradeén. "The religion of their rulers has never been an obstacle to allegiance amongst the Druzes, so long as no attempts are made to coerce their own belief, or to abridge their privileges." In this way the sect of the Druzes grew and increased in all the southern portions of the Lebanon; but meanwhile its northern districts were inhabited and brought into the highest state of cultivation by the Christian sect of the Maronites.

The Maronites were originally a Monothelite sect, founded by the monk Maron in the seventh century, and described by Jacques de Vitry, in his *Historia Hierosolymitana*, as "men armed with bows and arrows, and skilful in battle . . . who affirmed that there was in Jesus but one will or operation. The Christians of the Lebanon, dupes of this diabolical error, remained separate from the Church nearly five hundred years. At last, their hearts being turned, they made profession of the Catholic faith in presence of the venerable Father Amaury, and adopted the traditions of the Holy Roman Church." In 1438, under the pontificate of Eugenius IV., the Maronite clergy consented to acknowledge the supremacy of the Pope, and ever since that time active relations have been maintained between them and the Vatican. "But it was not till the seventeenth century that their temporal affairs obtained the special care and supervision of the French Government. Both Louis XIV. and Louis XV. granted them 'Letters of Protection,' the language of which seems to indicate that their right to do so had been more or less conceded by the Sultan." Thus the Druzes and the Christians lived amicably by the side of each other, each governed by their own chieftains and spiritual rulers.

About the beginning of the eighteenth century the family of Maan becoming extinct, the Druzes summoned to the government of the Lebanon the Mohammedan family of Shehab, a branch of the Beni Koreish; and about the middle of that century two emirs of the Shehab family declared themselves Maronite Christians. This introduced an element of discord among the inhabitants of the Lebanon, but it

was rather of a civil than religious character; indeed, so much was this the case that "the Emir Beshir Shehab, whose long and agitated career extended from 1789 to 1840, though secretly a Maronite, never entertained the wild idea of rallying the Maronites in a crusade against the Druzes. On the contrary, he felt the Druzes to be the most important element of his power." It was from the Turkish Government that the Christians chiefly suffered; but, under the rule of Ibrahim Pasha, every endeavour was used to ameliorate their condition. They were admitted to the local councils; their evidence was considered valid in courts of justice; and all distinction of dress was abolished. They were encouraged to devote themselves to agriculture, trade, and commerce, all of which flourished in their hands. But when in 1840 Syria was again given up to the Porte, this friendly aspect of affairs became totally changed. The Emir Beshir Kassim Shehab was installed into the vacant dignity of Grand Prince of the Lebanon, an appointment that gave great offence to the Druzes, from the tyrannical conduct of the previous Emir Beshir towards them during the latter part of his sovereignty. The new Emir treated the Druzes with all the haughty arrogance of an absolute prince. He insulted their sheiks whenever they came into his presence, and menaced them with a total deprivation of their feudal privileges. At the same time, the Maronite patriarch assumed to himself the right of issuing a decree curtailing, and indeed nullifying, the most important elements of the Druze polity. This decree was read all over the Lebanon, even in the town of Deir el Kamar itself, the stronghold of the Druzes, where it was received by the Christians with singing and firing, and every token of triumphant exultation; while the Druzes surveyed with astonishment from the windows of their palaces a demonstration which pretended to announce to them that their power had passed away. "It is unquestionable," says Colonel Churchill, "that about this time the patriarch received no less than £20,000 from France as the sinews of war, to enable him to carry out his views, if necessary, by force. Thus thrown on the defensive, the Druzes, with their wonted activity and power of combination, began to take measures for self-preservation. With such feelings on both sides, it was clear that a collision was merely a question of time."

The first disturbance that occurred was at Deir-el-Kamar, in the autumn of 1841, the Maronites being clearly the aggressors. In the course of it the Druzes showed themselves relentless towards the Christian inhabitants of the town, and soon the war-cry of both parties sounded through the whole Lebanon. The Christians, however, proved no match for the Druzes in this contest. And the same was the case when again in 1845 the Maronites sought to recover their ascendancy in the Lebanon. From that time until the outbreak of the Russian war, the Druzes held the Maronites in complete subjection—a condition of things that was acquiesced in, if not encouraged, by the Turkish Government. But at the conclusion of the war the French Consul-General threw his protection over the Christians in a manner that exasperated both the Mohammedans and Druzes. And now ensued a series of contests between them which culminated in an affray of considerable animosity on the 30th of August, 1860. The end, however, was not yet.

"In the month of April, 1860, Kurchid Pasha, the Turkish Governor, received dispatches from Constantinople which seemed suddenly to relieve him

from a disagreeable suspense. His language displayed a tone of buoyancy and assurance. It was even rumoured about the Serail, that a firman had arrived which would soon bring the ghaours to their senses. Shortly afterwards, Said Bey Jumblatt assembled a Druze divan at Mughtara. His correspondence became unintermitting. His chief adherents came pouring in from all quarters. A fortnight later, a general agitation prevailed throughout the Druze districts of the Lebanon. Isolated Christians, sometimes even parties of Christians, were attacked and assassinated by the Druzes on the high roads, which were more or less intercepted in every direction. Seized with consternation and alarm, whole families of Christians now abandoned their villages and sought refuge in such central places of resort as Zachlé and Deir-el-Kamar. The houses of the fugitives were in many instances burnt to the ground. They were not unfrequently, however, overtaken by the Druzes, who, at the very least, robbed, wounded, and disarmed them. By way of a deeper insult, and more surely calculated to create excitement and provoke retaliation, as touching the religious susceptibilities of the Christians, some Druzes, on the 4th of May, broke into the Maronite convent of Amek, near Deir-el-Kamar, and murdered the superior in his bed."

Alarmed for their safety, the Christians in several of the villages now banded together, and on the 21st of May fled in a body towards the Bekaa, intending to make for Zachlé, but the Druzes vigorously pursued and fired upon them. By way of reprisal, on the 27th, an army of three thousand Christians advanced upon Zachlé to attack the Druze village of Aindara, but they were encountered on the road by some six hundred Druzes, headed by their sheiks, who gave them battle, when the Christians were utterly discomfited, and the Druzes, spreading themselves through the district, burnt down all the Christian villages. All this time Kurchid Pasha was present in his camp with a considerable body of Turkish troops just beyond the pine wood contiguous to Beyrout, and commanding the adjoining plains. He made no attempt whatever to separate the combatants, or to restore tranquillity. But when the Christians sent three hundred of their number to reinforce their co-religionists in the villages of Baabda and Hadet, the residence of the Shehab Emirs, he sent emissaries to them, warning them away, and promising his own protection to the emirs in case of any attack. The reinforcements withdrew, but now let us hear in what way the Turkish Pasha kept his promise:—

"On the morning of the 30th of May the Druzes, by a preconcerted understanding with the Turks, and even acting by signal, descended from the heights immediately over the above-mentioned and now abandoned villages, and commenced a furious onslaught. Meeting, of course, with little or no resistance, their raid was quickly accomplished. In less than three hours the villages were in flames. The Christians—men, women, and children—fled in the utmost consternation. One hundred Turkish soldiers had been previously placed in such a position as to support the Druzes, in case, by any chance, of a reverse, and these now joined the latter in following up the fugitives. The Turkish irregular cavalry also joined vigorously in the pursuit, cutting down every Christian they overtook, and robbing and plundering the women whom the Druzes had left unmolested."

Words cannot be found strong enough to characterize this disgraceful treachery on the part of the Turks. On the night of the same day that saw the destruction of these villages, hundreds of Maronites, with their families, flying from the Druze mountains and coming towards Beyrout, by the sea-shore, for greater security, were suddenly intercepted by the Druzes and Turks, and cut to pieces, the latter sparing neither woman nor child.

But we have not space to enumerate all the deeds of blood thus perpetrated. Before the end of May, Said Bey Jumblatt had assumed the command of the Druzes throughout all the mountain ranges over which he ruled either directly or indirectly. Fearing that the Christians might at length rally and outnumber him, he called in the Druzes of the Houran, about four days' journey from the Lebanon, who, on the receipt of his appeal, at once advanced to the contest, under the leadership of Ismail-il-Utrush. On the 1st of June their combined forces, to the amount of about 4000 men, poured upon the devoted town of Deir-el-Kamar, in furious onset. The Christians for some time made a brave defence, but, by the treachery of the Turks, were induced on the following day to surrender, when the Druzes burned down a hundred and fifty of the houses, and after performing other acts of violence, withdrew. At Hasbeya, where Sitt Naafy, the sister of Said Bey Jumblatt, and a sort of tigress in human form, presided over affairs in the interest of her brother, still more dreadful scenes were enacted. It was known that a general massacre of the Christians had been resolved upon. Two Druze sheiks conveyed to her the instructions of Said Bey to that effect; but they presumed to question the propriety of their execution, and made an appeal to her on the subject. "Impossible!" she exclaimed, "Impossible! my brother's orders are peremptory and explicit," holding a letter from him in her hands; "not a Christian is to be left alive from seven to seventy years." These orders were but too faithfully executed. We shall not give the particulars; they are too horrible. "Sitt Naafy came down and entered the serail about an hour after sunset. It was dark. She called for a lamp. It was brought her. Ordering it to be held up before her, she for a long time feasted her eyes on the ghastly sight. Several hundred mangled corpses lay heaped up over each other before her. 'Well done, my good and faithful Druzes,' she exclaimed; 'this is just what I expected from you.'"

Such were the cruelties that for nearly three months in the summer-time of 1860 desolated the Lebanon. Colonel Churchill has admirably described both the different events as they took place and the causes that led to them. He has also paid a fitting tribute to the humanity, skill and bravery, of Abd-el-Kader, to whom Christendom is mainly indebted for the preservation of some 12,000 Christians at Damascus. All honour to the brave Arab chief for his heroic conduct!

Our author concludes with the following summary of the losses inflicted upon the Christians by their Druze and Mohammedan enemies during the period mentioned, viz.:—"11,000 Christians massacred, 100,000 sufferers by the civil war, 20,000 desolate widows and orphans, 3000 Christian habitations burnt to the ground, 4000 Christians perished of destitution, £2,000,000 property destroyed." Truly, an awful reckoning! And for all this what retribution has been obtained? Achmed Pasha, the Governor and military commander of Damascus, was shot by order of the tribunal of justice under Fuad Pasha. Three Turkish officers who were present at the massacre of Hasbeya, and a hundred and seventeen inferior persons, principally Bashi-Bazouks, were also shot. Of the citizens who took part in the massacre fifty-six were hanged. Of the notables, eleven were exiled to Cyprus and Rhodes, and their property sequestered for the time being. It has since been restored to their families, and these notables are living in their places of exile, surrounded by all the comforts and luxuries of life. On his return to Beyrout,

Fuad Pasha summoned before him the principal Druze sheiks, under pain of forfeiture of their titles and privileges and sequestration of their properties. Fourteen obeyed the summons, thirty-three refused. On all the penalty was inflicted indiscriminately. Kurchid Pasha, Taher Pasha, three other Turkish officials, and seven of the Druze sheiks, were accused and examined before an especial tribunal convoked for that purpose. Of these the Turks were sentenced to perpetual imprisonment, and the Druzes to death. "None of these sentences, however, have been carried into execution, whether of death or of penal imprisonment!" Readers will not fail to share in the indignation felt by Colonel Churchill in making this statement. That such a monster as Kurchid Pasha should have been allowed to escape without condign punishment is an especial disgrace to the Turkish Government, and tends much to encourage the idea that he all along acted under instructions received from head-quarters.

Diaries of Varnhagen von Ense. (Vols. III. and IV.) Berlin, 1862.

WE cannot better introduce this new instalment of Varnhagen's posthumous revelations now before us, than by informing our readers that the Berlin police had offered to suppress both volumes on their first appearance a fortnight or so ago, but that the King declined their services. Unfortunately we cannot entirely liken this act of self-denial to Frederick the Great's order that a caricature of himself, which had been pasted too high on the wall to be thoroughly appreciated by his dear Berliners, should be pasted a little lower down, so as to be within easy reach of the lowest of his subjects. Unfortunately;—for the diary, so far from being a caricature which a really great King might well despise, is in fact a history, in which the present King occupies a central, but by no means proud position. The then Crown Prince's share in the misfortunes and disgrace of Prussia under the Hamlet-King, is laid bare by Varnhagen, in gossip which comes fresh from the mouths of the Ministers of the day themselves. Still more than in our former extracts, we shall find ourselves arrested by the writer's political notes and prognostications,—for the crisis draws near. The third volume, the subject of our present notice, embraces the years 1845 and 1846; the fourth, the year 1847 and the first four months of 1848. The Constitution, which is apparently bursting upon us at the commencement of this volume, has at the end—two years later—advanced in such a manner that a "Royal autograph design has been executed for the uniforms of *future* States." What wonder if, but a short fifteen months later, in a certain March night, that awful "too late" rang in the ears of the tardy monarch and his blind and wicked advisers?

This part of Varnhagen's memoirs appears at a lucky moment. We are ready to believe, with all our heart, in the honesty of the present King: he will keep his word, and uphold the Constitutional régime which he really has inaugurated, after having first frustrated it with all his might. But let us hope, also, that he will right speedily learn to understand that phrase as it is generally understood. The "right divine" of Königsberg, and the dissolution of his Chambers for their daring inquiry into the budget, go far to show that he has not quite given up the odd notions which we find attributed to him in Varnhagen's entries. "Let the King read this book," while there are no inquisitive deputies in Berlin to vex his soul; and draw the moral.

In addition to the special political bearing of these volumes, they carry with them also a theological interest, so to say. The "abjuration" by Germany of rationalistic opinions, which has been triumphantly asserted of late, dates from this same period, and is simply to be reduced to the fact—which seems to have reached this country somewhat late and in a rather turbid state—that the universally abhorred Minister, Eichhorn, removed a number of men of liberal tendencies in religion, as well as in politics, from professorial chairs and other State offices, and filled up the vacancies with his favourite pietists, with whom, he said, "one can get on so much better." Of the political consequences of these acts of official violence the book tells a sad tale enough. That however the spread of moderate and enlightened investigation should have been interrupted by them for one moment, even in those darkest days of Prussia's life, is quite as true or likely as that for instance the natural laws of gravity or light should have been temporarily abrogated, because Professor Stahl, the leading mind of the Mantuffel party, insisted that "*Science must go back.*"

We now leave the reader in the society of Varnhagen himself; confining our own observations, as in our former notices, within the narrowest limits.

One of the very first entries is the following:—

"1845, January 5. The Minister then confided to me, spontaneously, that the King had resolved upon creating States of the Empire, and giving a constitution, and that he had worked out the principal points of the scheme himself, with his own hands; that there was much in it which would not be very popular, but also a good deal that far exceeded all expectations. 'Am I not bound,' the King had cried, 'to fulfil that which my father has promised?' The question is now whether I am an honest man or a blackguard!" And again, "If my brother William [the present King] goes against me in it, it will grieve my heart, but it will not have the slightest influence upon my head; and nothing can or shall disturb my resolution!" The censorship, too, is to be given up. The King wants to give freedom to the press, and to punish offences by distinct laws; perhaps the proposal does not go down with the German Diet; but however that may be, Prussia will stand in a high position by the mere proposal! The period of quiet must be used for such work. The thing is necessary. Prussia neither can nor must stand still. It will be much better to have to deal with one Assembly at Berlin than with eight Provincial Diets, which are nothing else than opposition, and which have everywhere assumed already the prerogatives of Estates of the Empire. 'We are in the mud,' says Bulow [the Minister], and we must get to dry land; those who dissuade us do it only in their own interest; they do not think of ours. . . . There will be shrieks of distress at the courts of Vienna and St. Petersburg! But the King will not mind that. A fitting communication of the King's intention is to be made to the next Provincial Diets. He is prepared for nonsense, outrage, excess, and exaggeration; but this he will not mind, and he hopes that the good sense of the nation will in time restore the proper equilibrium. . . .

"A few days ago, in the Ministry of State, the Prince of Prussia [the present King] delivered a discourse, in which he proved the impossibility of dealing any longer with eight Provincial Diets at once; they all, he said, assumed what did not belong to them; they were all full of a factious spirit, they would only go on from worse to worse; he must insist upon their being proceeded against with open force. Deep silence on the part of the Ministers, who are in the King's confidence, followed the discourse of the Prince, who had not the remotest idea of the King's resolution. Upon this Bulow and Count von Arnim represented to the King the false position they stood in with regard to the Prince, and how desirable it would be that the King should communicate the thing to him. This has been done to-

day. The Prince will be beside himself! But if we are to get a Constitution, and the Prince shows that he disapproves of it, the evil would be great; such a rupture must be avoided at any cost. The crisis will be stupendous. . . . Besides, the King has the ambition to erect a great fabric, which is to become a pattern for all Germany—a Constitution which is to outshine all those that exist already in some of her minor States. With our strength, he thinks, something might be done such as has not hitherto been seen; the assent of the other Germans will not be wanting, and will double our power. The King has given the Prince a copy of the outlines of the proposed plans, in order that he may think them over quietly, and write his observations on the margin."

With this "exciting, stupendous" news, Varnhagen leaves the Minister; who, "without any visible reason or cause, communicated it to me without reserve," and he could hardly recover his equanimity on the way. This, however, is his first reflection:—

"What makes me very sad, is the contradiction in which the King stands with himself. Has he forgotten, then, that he said he would never give States of the Empire?—that he declared to the Diet at Posen, that he was not bound by the promises of his father?"

"January 6. If the States are to be created, all our present Ministers will have to go! They seem to have an idea of that, and to begin the work which is to strike the first blow at them, with sighs. The King seems annoyed that public opinion is falling away from him; he appears to have the regaining of it at any price most at heart; he feels the want of doing something great, something at which the world will stand amazed. The position of the constitutional Princes in Germany irritates and annoys him; he sees how they only use him as the dark background from which they stand out all the clearer; and how, with all that, they like to prop up their constitutional authority with his absolute power, and beg him not to go any further with the liberty of the press, while they give themselves the air of being only hampered by Prussia."

Absit omen!

"January 27. I hear the Prince of Prussia is going to protest, for himself and his descendants, against the Constitution! There we have at once a pretty breach to begin with! Altogether—what tomfooleries shall we see?"

"January 29. The Prince of Prussia informs the Minister von Bulow, that he had 'thrown a cudgel' into the midst of that 'matter of the Constitution,' which will be found to be very much in the way."

A man and a brother:—

"January 30. The Prince who intended to do what he has proposed to himself, quietly, so as to avoid public scandal, had a hard encounter with the King, and represented to him that he was mistaken if he thought that he could direct such movements; he was not at all fit for a Constitutional Monarch; he would lose his temper if the States refused him the money for building, for travelling, &c. Upon which the King became furious at once, and said such a thing should not happen. The Prince said he thought himself much better fitted for a Constitution; the King might leave that to him or to the Prince's son; the King might work it out, transmit it, and make it obligatory on his successor; if it were to be put in force now, there would be an awful confusion; the King would see himself disappointed, feel unhappy, and have a miserable reign. But all this has not moved the King. . . . But unfortunately only that which is done can be taken for granted with him, and even what he has signed already he sometimes recalls. Properly speaking, just such a King wants a Constitution,—he wants bounds."

Opinions of the first estate:—

"January 31. The aristocracy pronounces in a measure against the King. They say, 'Le Roi fait des bêtises! Il s'en repentira. Il finira par devenir mélancolique. Il ne devrait songer qu'à s'amuser, pourquoi se mêle-t-il d'être législateur?' And many other things besides."

Here is a full-grown fracas:—

"February 7. The Prince insisted upon his right to oppose the King, while the latter denied it. In the meantime the King had had certain old documents brought out from the archives relating to the family quarrel in 1806. The brothers Henry and William of Prussia had dared almost to forbid the King Frederick William III. the war with France, and had threatened at last to carry their protest to resistance, upon which the ordinarily undecided King replied immediately they should see how far that would go; he in the meantime would think himself entitled in such a case to lay their heads before their feet. The King has got these papers in his cabinet. The Minister also called the Prince's attention to the fact that anything like a communication of the draught of the Constitution, a copy of which had been given to him—say to St. Petersburg—would be equal to high treason."

Causes and effects:—

"February 10. Strange that the Ultras, who were the most forward in urging the King to the execution of Tachech, did not anticipate that with that they sowed a seed in the King's breast which would break out in Constitution, and now the Prince of Prussia probably has no idea that in opposing the Constitution, he brings on that which he hates and fears still more—the Revolution! and I look upon it as having begun already. . . . The Princess of Prussia said the other day to somebody: People should not think that she could influence her husband; when he was in his obstinate moods no one could bring him to reason."

The building of the new church at Sanssouci [Frederick the Great's place] is sharply denounced:—

"April 18. It is like putting a cross upon the new edition of Frederick the Great's works."

May 6. Bettina von Arnim communicates to Varnhagen—to his immense surprise—that she had had secret interviews with the King, that they had told each other everything, that he had called her his "penitent," that he wished to see her again secretly, &c. Varnhagen, who is to furnish her with plans, propositions, advice, schemes, and so forth, piqued probably at not having been told of all this before, answers rather coldly that she would not succeed, that all was in vain, &c.; whereupon she taunts him with inactivity, want of courage, and finally leaves him in no good humour. Thereupon Varnhagen's mind becomes very uneasy;—also, "because the noble, excellent woman tortures herself 'with that' for no reason, and has tortured herself for such a long time."

Next day she writes him a letter, wherein she confesses frankly that she doubts, nay, distrusts him. He answers, that all her distrust is without foundation, that he does not even understand what she alludes to. Upon which he receives the following Bettineuse effusion:—

"Dear Mr. von Varnhagen,—The devil has scratched the black contents from the chimney of my spirit down upon my soul, my frankness makes a draught, the soot flies against me and blackens me very hideously, so that I dare not be seen by human eye. In these holy days, when clean-washed geni gift the Apostles with fiery tongues, I must hide myself, because of the refuse of nature with which I have blackened myself."

And the letter winds up with atrocious statements of acts of stupid violence perpetrated by the authorities against some young men "suspected of political offences."

"May 18. Aug. Wihl. von Schlegel died on the 12th of May, at Bonn, in his seventy-eighth year; his vanity has not left him. He has ordered that his corpse be exhibited on the State-bier. All honour is rendered to the name; but the man towards the end only lived in ridiculous doings. The King will by this be saved the disgrace of seeing the edi-

tion of Frederick the Great's works disfigured by an improper preface."

Small shots:—

"June 23. The King had told the Königsbergers that it was only about forty wanton fellows who caused the discontent and the disturbances. Upon this one of the hearers remarked audibly, 'Oh, not even so many as that—only six or seven; but they sit in Berlin, and are called Excellencies.'"

A Heineism:—

"July 16. 'Oehlenschläger had been reading at Koreff's one of his new (German) tragedies, badly enough, with his Danish corruption of the German language and accent. Humboldt had luckily escaped the invitation, but Heine had tumbled into it, and for this he revenged himself after the reading by saying, in lieu of the expected praise, 'I should never have imagined that I knew Danish so well.'"

Sad reflections:—

"The people in France lived in 1787 and 1788 just as quietly as we do now, but the very next year it did not do any longer. . . . We are already in the midst of a silent revolution. Prussia must either disappear in Germany, or Germany in Prussia. Prussia has gone too far; it cannot go back or stand still; it is driven forward."

"July 24. A Rhenish advocate had defended the notorious Fonk, and tried to prove that he could not possibly have committed the murder; soon afterwards he asks Fonk to lend him some money, which the latter however declines to do. The attorney related the incident with bitter complaints of his ingratitude, and added, 'In that moment I saw the murderer clearly expressed in his features.'"

A mot of the Prince of Ligne:—

"July 26. Un Prince doit se servir de sa cour comme d'un paravent, derrière lequel il cache sa faiblesse et sa bêtise."

Frederick William III.:—

"Told, in 1813, at Paris, to the Countess Saint Aulaire, with whom he was slightly in love, how much he had endured, the calamity of the war, the hard times after the peace of Tilsit, the death of the Queen. He was really moved, and then added:—'Et pour combler le malheur, j'ai encore dû faire le Jacobin.' He meant the time when he had had to speak to his people of liberty, citizenship, &c."

The Emperor Nicholas:—

"Among the many stories which occur every day of the great and the little world, I was struck by what General Roth confided to us, viz. that the Emperor of Russia had told him, some years ago, 'Je suis persuadé que je mourrai d'une mort spontanée.'"

In Tivoli, near Berlin:—

"August 31. Uhlich's [the Licht-freund] letter, the reading of which had been prohibited, was sung."

A dainty story:—

"August 22. The Weimar Pope Sabinin tells me many things about the Greek Church; among others a dainty little anecdote of a Russian peasant who goes to the confessional. 'Oh, dear father, I have stolen pigeons.' 'Pigeons! and what have you done with them? Where are they?' 'They lie in that corner there.' 'Leave them there; and the father confessor imposes a penance, and carries off the doves with him. The next time the peasant confesses again—'I love a beautiful girl, and . . . 'What, a beautiful girl? What is her name? Where is she?' 'Oh, no, dear father, that is not like the pigeons.'"

"October 30. Humboldt says, they are exclusively occupied at Sanssouci with the question, whether the Jews went through the Red Sea on a Tuesday or a Wednesday; that nothing else was spoken of, this was the most important subject."

This is the improvement of the religious condition of Germany:—

"November 25. Our condition here grows gloomier and gloomier. All posts are badly filled. Eichhorn

[the Minister of Public Instruction] is a pest for all universities and gymnasiums. The Licentiate of Theology, Schwarz, in Halle, must break up his well-attended lectures on Church History, because Eichhorn finds them too doctrinalistic; of course, in consequence of party-denunciations! Eichhorn would certainly now prohibit his friend Schleiermacher's preaching. 'A nasty fellow!'"

Foreign politics, and how they influence Prussia's proud position:—

"Resignation of the English Ministry. We make large eyes at it. Sir Robert Peel was no advantage to us; Lord John Russell will be less so. We have no politics; we lean upon nothing, and nothing leans upon us! Canitz cannot alter that!"

Spontini, the Maestro:—

(December 26) "writes to the King, asking him to be reinstated, and to be allowed to conduct his operas; that there was really nothing in Meyerbeer; 'Croyez-moi, Sire; sachez de vous débarrasser de ce Juif-errant!' The King, however, did not like this tone, and Humboldt had to reprimand Spontini."

The King:—

(December 25) "is said to believe in the apparitions of ghosts."

The Emperor Nicholas:—

(December 26) "has embraced the Pope in Rome. 'L'Empereur Russe a embrassé la religion Catholique,' they say."

Punch says:—

(1846, January 1) "there is only one old woman (Bettina) left in Berlin who believes in the promises of the King!"

Prussia:—

(February 15) "stands quite isolated in Europe, our Government in Prussia, and the King in the Government."

The anniversary of Luther's death:—

"February 18. Celebrated in all churches. . . . Things and men of to-day are not to be celebrated. The Luthers and Hutens of to-day are imprisoned immediately by the police."

The solace of philosophy:—

"March 1. Whether we shall ever come to something like a real State? Doubtful; the Greeks never did reach it; and it is not the only salvation, after all. How many Englishmen, well knowing their advantages, yet, in fact, give them up, live voluntarily in foreign dependence, under foreign laws, even in Russia, as engineers, tradesmen and mechanics, masters of languages, &c. Let us hold firmly what we have in the meantime, and strive seriously and sensibly for farther things. If only true to ourselves, free from imagination and vanity, enough will fall to our share."

A quotation well worthy of repetition:—

"March 11. 'Nero Vejontis libros exuri jussit, conquistos lectitatosque donec cum periculo parantur, mox licentia habendi oblivionem attulit.'—Tacitus, Annales xiv. 50."

Friend Hengstenberg, the beacon of orthodoxy:—

"March 24. Minister von Kamptz goes for a walk in the Thiergarten, and meets Hengstenberg. Both walk on together. Suddenly Kamptz, whose good side it is not to be a pietist, asks Hengstenberg whether he really believes in the devil? Hengstenberg earnestly assures him that he does most decidedly. There was nothing more certain than the devil, who was everywhere, even on that spot; that he walked with them. Kamptz upon that stopped, said nervously he must confess that he did not like such company at all, that he would prefer to go home! And thus he took his leave, while Hengstenberg and the devil continued the walk."

A hint for the situation:—

"April 6. Wheaton, the North American Minis-

ter, asked Canitz the other day, confidentially, whether the King would, if requested, undertake the arbitration of the Oregon question? Upon which Canitz scoffingly asked, 'Why don't you rather ask the Pope?' Wheaton is very angry."

Of the former Bishop of Breslau, afterwards Privy Councillor, Count Sedlnicki, the following is told:—

"April 7. A lady who met him one evening in society told him that she had seen him already that morning. 'Where?' 'In church when you officiated.' 'Oh, there, en masque, you mean?' But this joke was reported to Rome, and gave rise to that distrust and bitterness which afterwards caused his resignation."

Si non è vero:—

"April 9. 'The King is quite enchanted with her (Cerito's) art. . . . The Grand Duke George of Strelitz was in the King's box the other night, and people say they observed, that after a roar of applause for the *dansuse*, both Princes rose, pressed each other's hands, and in the excess of sympathetic admiration embraced each other.'"

This tells a sad tale:—

"July 19. 'The King,' in ordering reports on the creation of States, had forbidden the word 'Constitution' and 'Constitutional.' 'Parliamentary Régime' was substituted."

Minister of Justice Uhden has dismissed two Referendaires (young lawyers) the royal service, because "they held rationalistic opinions."

"Bravo, this school of hypocrites goes on famously! And it is in these days that the works of Frederick the Great are published! The papers are already giving striking extracts from them."

Of Goethe's mother:—

"Smidt saw her in 1795 at Frankfort, and brought her Goethe's love; the beginning of 'Wilhelm Meister' has just appeared in the 'Horen,' and Goethe's mother took the opportunity of saying: 'It is very wrong of my son that he does not write to me a word beforehand when he wants to immortalize something; the marionette play, which he makes famous, I unfortunately gave away a month ago, after having kept it carefully for a long time.' [It is very carefully guarded now in the Frankfort Town Library.] Then she said 'she had complained to her son that pictures were shown to her so frequently and she never knew then what to say of them; could he not tell her what to do?' Goethe's advice was: 'Whenever a picture is shown to you, look at it for a time very intently, and then say with an air of importance—This has its effect, and everybody will think you a connoisseur. . . .'"

"Goethe used in writing neither sand nor blotting-paper. In winter he held the wet writing against the stove, in summer to the window, and in no case, he said, ought one to be so over-hurried as not to be able to wait a minute quietly till everything is dry."

The Pope:—

"August 13. Will he continue as he began? Will he remain alive? The Cardinals beard him already, and Austria makes representations."

The old sore:—

"September 5. The King is said to complain bitterly of his brothers, none of whom agrees with him, but it is principally the Prince of Prussia who makes him uncomfortable; he is always glad when he goes on a journey."

Hinc ille lacrymæ:—

"September 20. The King said to Count Münch-Bellinghansen that he did not want any people with ideas, he had ideas enough himself; he only wanted servants to carry them out."

The first "learned" meeting of a political nature:—

"October 4. A curiosity of the highest degree is the assembly of Germanists at Frankfort-on-the-

Maine. German *servants*, and the greatest names, debate publicly the Schleswig-Holstein question, and talk against the King of Denmark! Metternich will clasp his hands above his head!

The autograph letters of the late King to Napoleon—

(October 4) "in the possession of Joseph Bonaparte, came into the hands of his adjutant, and were offered by him to the present King for sale; they have been bought for six-and-twenty thousand thalers. It is said that their tenor and contents are deeply humiliating for the writer; that one can easily imagine; but then everybody knows that there was no need to pay such a price for these letters. The Emperor Nicholas has paid for similar letters of his brother as much as thirty thousand thalers."

Heine:—

(October 5. Beautiful letter of Heine's from Tarbes, printed in the *Hamburg Telegraph*. "Perhaps death does not exist at all; perhaps it is the last superstition."

The Prince of Prussia—

(October 12) "returns to-day from Austria. With absolute tendencies, he plays against his own will the part of a Constitutional Prince; he constantly opposes the King's wishes, and weakens his authority by ill-timed censure."

In a book called *Berlin*, by E. Dronke—"a terribly sharp critique of the five years' reign of the King." Amongst other people who are called disagreeable names, Varnhagen appears with the epithet "eaves-dropper," upon which he remarks in his diary, "Don't matter."

Apropos of the Geneva Revolution:—

"October 29. If the flames had spread to Neuchâtel, Friburg, Basle, they might have sprung over to Germany too; there is tinder enough scattered about from Constance to Memel. One moment, and the masses rise everywhere at once, a peasant war breaks out as in Galicia; and what then? And is France secure herself? Will the nation bear all ways? Will it bear much longer the more and more shameless tricks and suppressions of Louis Philippe? Certainly not! Take care!"

Nemesis—

"The son of Minister von Bodelschwingh died in consequence of a gun-shot wound received at the hands of Mr. Jagor. The Minister has always defended duelling as a chivalrous necessity."

"November 24. 'The King is said to have expressed himself with irritation about the popular exultation at Rome, and to have remarked that it was only the first year, the Pope would see how different it would be in the second; one knew that well enough, one had had that sort of thing oneself.'"

The States:—

"December 10. Are said to be postponed again. A short while ago the King spoke already of a hall which was to be found for them; very shortly, people say, the drapery will be ordered, pens cut, ink prepared, and even then they would not be called, the proper signal was far from being given; it would be a signal of terror!"

We conclude with a Christmas-day reflection of Varnhagen's:—

"December 25. The state of public affairs spoils everything with me. Daily I hear things which make me quite wretched. The most shameless arbitrariness and senselessness exercises its power of office. . . . Prussian is not much better than Turkish."

"How are the peoples treated altogether! With what hypocrisy, mockery, baseness! not only in Prussia and Austria, but also in France; and they think Heaven will not punish such wickedness! They do not fear the examples of history, but they do not even know them!—Wait!"

Mélanges Egyptologiques. Par F. Chabas. Duprat, Paris; Dejussieu, Chalon-sur-Saône.

M. CHABAS, Vice-President of the Historical and Archaeological Society of Chalon-sur-Saône, is well known by his Egyptian researches. An ardent disciple of Champollion, he has pursued the principles laid down by the great master with distinguished success, and succeeded in elucidating many important hieroglyphical texts. The *brochure* before us contains eleven dissertations upon sundry subjects of Egyptology, illustrated by wood-engravings, and is a valuable addition to our means of studying the language of Ancient Egypt.

The first of these discusses a papyrus of the reign of Rameses II., relating to the chase of certain fugitive slaves. This document, found at Memphis, appears to be the report of a scribe to his superior, of the proceedings taken by him under orders to seek out the slaves who had fled from their work, and contains several particulars illustrative of the condition of the serf population of Egypt during the supposed period of the oppression of the Hebrews. The second dissertation relates to an account of certain expenses, which M. Chabas thinks may be connected with the previous document, as the papyrus containing it was found rolled up with the other. The question whether the Egyptians used money, and if so of what kind it was, is here discussed. It is remarkable that no coins of genuine Egyptian type have ever been found, nor are any depicted on the monuments. The inhabitants of the Nile valley may have perhaps used a kind of ring-money, and they certainly had well-defined standards of weight. Considering the enormous commerce which they carried on, both internally and externally, it is incredible that they should not have had from early times some expedient for escaping from the inconveniences of barter. The point however still remains very obscure.

A discussion of the name applied by the Egyptians to the shepherd-kings occupies the third dissertation.

The fourth discusses the appellation given to certain labourers employed in quarrying stone for the buildings of Rameses II., in which M. Chabas thinks that he recognizes the name of the Hebrews. Hitherto no well-substantiated mention of this people has been found in any Egyptian record. Even the famous Judahmelek, of Champollion, in which it was believed that a memorial remained of the victory of Shishak over Rehoboam, king of the Jews, is now recognized as nothing more than the name of some obscure Syrian town. The name which M. Chabas considers identical with Hebrew (*Hibri*) occurs in two papyri of the age of Rameses II., and on a stele in a stone quarry at Hammamat of somewhat later date. It reads *Aper* or *Aperin*, the Egyptian letters being precisely those which are found to answer in a variety of other cases to the component letters of *Hibri*. The two words only differ according to a well-ascertained law of change which prevails in transcribing Syrian names into Egyptian. There seems, then, the highest probability that we at length possess in these passages a real allusion to the Hebrew race, and to their employment in the construction of the palaces of the Pharaohs.

A fifth dissertation gives an analysis of a medical papyrus, which exists in the Berlin Museum, but of which no facsimile is given in the great work on the *Monuments of Egypt*, lately brought to completion under the direction of Dr. Lepsius. M. Chabas is fortunate enough to have obtained a copy of this curious document, which throws considerable light

upon the medical practice of ancient Egypt. It contains not less than a hundred and seventy prescriptions for a great variety of diseases. The work is divided into three sections. The commencement of the first is lost. The beginning of the second M. Chabas translates as follows:—"Commencement of the treatise of allaying inflammation, found written on sheets in a box containing books, under the feet of Anubis at Sokhem, in the time of King Thoth the justified. After his death it descended to King Snat the justified, to be completed." According to Manetho, Athothis, the successor of Menes, wrote on anatomy, and this seems to be one of the treatises wont to be ascribed to him. It commences with an account of the veins or vessels of the various parts of the body, and gives a great number of remedies for divers ailments. The treatise does not give a very high idea of the medical science of the Egyptians, but it shows clearly whence the Greeks and Romans borrowed a large part of their therapeutics. Not less than two hundred substances are mentioned which are employed in different medicaments. Of these a small number only can be identified. The papyrus is of great philological value, and helps to throw light on many words and phrases of the Egyptian language.

The following five dissertations relate to certain expressions of common occurrence in the papyri, of which detailed explanations are given. In the eleventh and last, M. Chabas makes some remarks on the progress of Egyptian research, and the means which exist for completing the analysis and interpretation of the texts. He points attention to the necessity of working out a perfect acquaintance with the language, before attempting to construct history from the fragments of literature which remain.

"Let us not imagine [he says] that this analytical study of the language is repulsive. Like all researches attended with results, it presents on the contrary an irresistible attraction. We are not reduced to follow beaten paths, to arrive with painful efforts at a point already occupied by others. Far from it; we have an immense field and an abundant mine, where there are numerous veins yet unexplored—where numbers of labourers, working at their ease, may, without encroaching on each other, bring to light treasures entirely new. There is really cause for astonishment that this seductive study still reckons but a small number of adepts. The principal reason seems to be the difficulties inseparable from making a beginning. But these difficulties have been much lessened by some recent publications. A second cause of distaste consists in the exaggerated opinion generally entertained of the strangeness and complication of the hieroglyphic system."

M. Chabas points out that the construction of the language is as simple as that of Hebrew. Certain orthographical oddities are found, due to the fondness of the scribes for displaying their knowledge, or to causes similar to those which have so whimsically disordered our written from our spoken language. How few lines in any page of English are "spelt as spoken."

Down South; or, an Englishman's Experience at the Seat of the American War. By Samuel Phillips Day, Special Correspondent of the *Morning Herald*. 2 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

THIS is a curious book: because, apart from the peculiarities which lie upon the face of it and which crop up at every page to divert the mind of the reader from the action of the narrative, if we are to credit one tithe of what it advances,

all preconceived ideas, and all the information already possessed respecting the resources and prospects of the Confederate States in their struggle with the North, must be dismissed as worthless. With the political aspect of the quarrel we have in this place nothing to do, and in our present remarks we shall not touch upon them. We were certainly under the impression that the warmest partisans of the Southern States were alarmed at their lack of arms, the smallness of their resources for the supply of animal food and the desperate state of their finances. Mr. Phillips Day attempts to set our minds at rest on each of these scores. After enumerating certain seizures of arms made when war was certain, he says, "The grand total makes 707,000 stand of arms, besides 200,000 revolvers said to be on hand on various points (the italics are our own); while the arms in the States of Arkansas, Texas, Kentucky, Maryland, and Virginia, have been set down at 1,000,000. I have likewise heard it stated that 2,000,000 of private weapons could be procured in case of necessity." It is to be hoped that all the writers' information at Richmond in the same direction was not gathered in this way. There, in one manufactory, "three hundred women and boys were constantly employed in making cartridges, while sixty thousand percussion caps were daily prepared in another. Foundries were in full operation, which turned out guns of calibres ranging from seven to sixty-four pounders. Every description of sabre and bayonet was likewise manufactured here." Old flint muskets were converted into percussion pieces at the rate of three thousand a week. Iron and powder were actively "manufactured," and all sorts of great things were done in the way of soldier's uniforms with the untanned hides which used formerly to be sent to New York and to Philadelphia.

In the same way the pecuniary resources of the Confederate States are beyond computation.

The "staple produce of the country" in cotton alone is four and a half millions every year ("three of which," says the author, parenthetically, "are exported to Europe," though he does not explain how the process is effected just at the present crisis). The Government—that is, the Confederate Government, "purchases a fair portion" of the planter's crop at a fair market value (what that may be in the time of civil war we are not told), "and pays him in their (i.e. the Government) bonds at eight per cent. interest." These bonds are a legal tender throughout the South. "By this means," says Mr. Day, "the Government possesses an overflowing treasury." Can any conclusion be more satisfactory?

In the way of self-sustenance, the author may, for all we know, be correct. We have no present means at hand for challenging his figures, and he is entitled to the benefit of that circumstance; but no writer has cause to complain if, having indulged in loose statements in one part of his work, he is somewhat closely criticized in others. Mr. Day contends that Virginia and North Carolina produce conjointly 13,363,000 bushels of wheat, being 241,000 more than what is produced annually by the "great wheat State, New York," and equal to what the six New England States, with New Jersey, Michigan, Iowa, and Wisconsin combined produce. Add Tennessee to the two first-mentioned States, and the three together produce 300,000 bushels of wheat more than New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. These data are offered on the authority of what is termed

the "Seventh Census," which, to be worth anything for the purposes of the present consideration, must have been, in part, at all events, an agricultural census. We are not informed whether the same authority is relied upon for the statement that South Carolina alone produces six million bushels of wheat more than all the New England States, one million bushels of oats more than the State of Massachusetts, one million bushels of potatoes more than the State of Maine, 180,000 bushels of peas and beans more than all the Northern States together, New York excepted. In the way of animal produce, this favoured State is even more remarkable. She raises 2,000 more heads of beef-cattle than Pennsylvania, and "almost as many as the whole of the New England States," 11,000 more sheep than the States of Iowa and Wisconsin, 47,000 more hogs than that of New York, 25,000 more than that of Pennsylvania, 86,000 more than "all the New England States, with New Jersey, Michigan, Wisconsin, and California combined, and 10,000 more horses and mules than Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island together. These figures are sufficiently startling, considering the views that have generally been entertained as to the resources of the Southern States; but they deserve to be quoted if only for the purpose of giving our author a hearing. It were to be wished, nevertheless, that he had furnished us with some authority for all this—a little more come-at-able than the "Seventh Census" upon which he relies for the truth of his wheat returns.

Well, what is the result of all this? An ordinary reader would say, "Why, the Southerners have then the best of it. They have an overflowing treasury;" foundries turning out Dahlgren guns rapidly, manufactories where flint muskets are converted into percussion pieces at the rate of three thousand a week, and one State alone which beats any six of the Northern States in the production of corn and potatoes, and in the raising of oxen, sheep, hogs, horses, and mules. We only wish that what is publicly known of the present contest at all answered the statistics thus given. Mr. Day's own practical experiences do not always bear them out. That the common soldiers are better drilled, better officered and in the main better handled than their brethren of the North, seems probable. The simple fact that the majority of the educated officers of the United States went over to the South would be sufficient to account for this. But the writer's own description of regiments whose "uniforms were anything but uniform," of the scarcity of rifled weapons as compared with the North, and of the utter failure of the commissariat at the battle of Bull Run, although the arrangements for that event were made days before, testifies that much of his information is so tinged with the roseate hue of his own leanings as to render its acceptance by any impartial reader a matter of considerable hesitation. Unfortunately, too, besides being a victim in a provoking degree to *canards*, he is continually telling stories about himself, which give rise to speculations as to what extent the humourists of the Southern army—and there must be such in all armies—permitted themselves to poke their fun at him.

As illustrations, we are told that a Confederate regiment "marched" (*sic*) four miles in thirty minutes to the action at Bull Run; and that many of the Federals, in their retreat, were interred, as Mr. Day has "reason to think, alive, for one (!) man's arms were observed rising out of his grave." That our author is innocent of the absurdity of all this is evident from

the following anecdote which he tells of himself. Having inspected the field of Bull Run some days after the battle, he returned at nightfall to sup at the quarters of General Beauregard. During the meal, "I," says Mr. Day, "observed to the General, 'The enemy came to plant his stars and stripes upon your soil, but you gave him the stripes without the stars,' a sentiment which he flatteringly acknowledged." Where Mr. Day expected to go to after an effusion like this we leave our readers to determine. It is right to remind them, however, that, according to his own confession, he had had little to eat during the day, and that his chief refreshment had been rye-whisky; but his success with this joke made him go almost too far for even the good-natured Beauregard. Emboldened by its "flattering" reception, he was pleased to remark, we presume at the supper-table, that "the ladies of Richmond were determined, when the opportunity offered, to kiss the General to death;" upon which the latter pleasantly replied, "Oh, I couldn't stand that! 'Tis too bad! and from a married man, too!" Perhaps others will agree with the General that it was "too bad;" yet so self-satisfied is the perpetrator of this epigrammatic effusion, that he speaks in another place of the good-natured soldier who put up with it as possessed of "large concentrativeness and vivid perception." It is a consolation to know this, as the gallant Beauregard will not be induced to judge of all English Special Correspondents from the specimen with which this writer furnished him.

Probably there is no subject now before the public on which accurate and trustworthy information is so much desired as the movements of the belligerent parties on the Transatlantic continent. The careful and politic reticence of the South, and the unbridled gasconading of the North, have made it quite impossible to rely upon any reports which are brought to this country, except those that record the mere outline of events. Now here was a great opportunity for Mr. Day. He was received by the Secessionists with hospitality and even cordiality. He was a welcome guest at the tables of General Officers; he conversed on terms of equality with eminent statesmen; and he had a pass whenever he pleased to rove over battle-fields, to partake of officers' camp-fare and lodging, and to examine gun-foundries and commissariat stores. Compared with these advantages, those related in the more modest narrative of Mr. Russell seem as nothing. Yet, instead of keeping his mind cool and his judgment clear, Mr. Day, almost from the moment of his landing in the States, succumbed to that fever of exaggeration which appears to be endemic in the American race. A good deal of amusement has been excited in this country by the propensity among the Yankees to liken General McClellan to the first Napoleon. Our author, though an Englishman, and, we should suppose, perfectly well aware that there are not two points of resemblance between them, more than once confers the same honour on General Beauregard. He even goes further, and seems to find in the battle of Bull Run a repetition of some of the incidents which marked the great day of Waterloo. Thus, on the arrival on the first-named field of Elsey's brigade, he makes General Beauregard exclaim, "Elsey, you are the Blücher of the day!" One more example and we have done. When the writer arrived at the termination of his railway journey, on his way to Manassas, he noticed a young lady in black, "silent and sombre-looking as death," with a revolver in her right hand stretched out

towards the field of battle, "as if in defiance." To most men's minds, this spectacle would have called up the suspicion that the poor young lady's mind had given way, possibly in consequence of the loss of some near relative in this internecine warfare. Mr. Day, on the contrary, discovers in her a "second Joan of Arc;" though it would be difficult to point out what portion of the Maid of Orleans' history can in any way justify the comparison.

The battle of Bull Run will probably ever be remarkable as the first general action fought between the contending parties in which blood was shed on any considerable scale. The Confederates themselves acknowledge to a loss of two thousand in killed and wounded; and though that of their opponents is still a matter of dispute, there can be no question of the expenditure of a considerable amount of life. Up to this time the bloodless battles of the contending parties had been a standing joke throughout Europe. The furious bombardment and capitulation of Fort Sumter without a drop of blood being spilt on either side, is fresh in the minds of us all. The battle of Great Bethel, recorded with most amusing seriousness in these volumes, deserves to hold a place beside it. "The repeated and desperate attacks," all effectually repulsed, "the brilliant charge of a thousand men," the destructive fire, the hard-fought struggle from 9 A.M. until 2 P.M., and, finally, the loss of one man by the conquerors, who celebrated their victory by retreating from their position the same evening, is a specimen of bathos seldom encountered.

Although we have felt compelled to criticize Mr. Day's work somewhat closely, we do not mean to infer that it does not possess many good features. The description of Richmond, for instance, and of social life within it, is exceedingly well written, and for the intrinsic information it conveys, well worth reading. So are all those incidents of car life, or, as we should call it here at home, of railroad life, which the book contains. There is something immensely striking in the idea of a train full of people all bound on different errands—of mercy, of grief, of curiosity, and what not—making its way to the field of battle but a couple of days after a momentous struggle. All this is well depicted. There is also much interest in the journey to Missouri, and in the narrative of the affair at Lexington, a proper account of which had not, until this work appeared, been received. Mr. Day has his particular vein, if he knew how to work it; but his partisanship, his hero worship, and his inveterate propensity for retailing his own bad jokes, have caused him to neglect a great opportunity. There is one scene in his book to which, in conclusion, we would call attention, not in any spirit of adverse criticism, but simply in order to found upon it an inquiry—whether such is the usage of war? We do this the more confidently because the South prides itself in carrying on the struggle on principles of civilization, and possibly this may be a fair mode of testing whether it does so. The Confederates captured at Bull Run the Federal letter-bag. In it were a vast number of private letters, addressed by friends at home to those on service. The writer, in company with an officer of the Southern army, enjoyed these effusions immensely, some of which, we are told, are "racy," and others rabid, and of which certain specimens are reproduced. The English of these letters is often very bad, the orthography execrable, and the sentiments absurd enough. But, presuming that the bag had been examined for papers which might throw light on the movements of the enemy, was it civilized on the part of the general in

command to withhold the private letters from those for whom they were intended; and was it good taste on the part of Mr. Day to read, copy, and publish extracts from them? To our mind the most absurd and misspelt of all these letters are inexpressibly melancholy. They may divert, by the homeliness of their information, of a cow calving and a sow farrowing, but they tell also of home and of the love which is borne by those at a distance for him who has gone forth on the part of valour and duty. Would it not have been an act of graceful courtesy if General Beauregard had returned this mail-bag to the Federal authorities? Such a proposition never seems to have entered into the author's brain.

SHORT NOTICES.

The St. Aubyns of St. Aubyn. Two Vols. (Blackwood.) Novels have different uses. It is related of the illustrious Niebuhr that the hours of his last sickness were greatly soothed by listening to passages from the works of Fenimore Cooper. The extreme boldness of the conversations, especially, is reported to have tickled the Teutonic fancy to a degree that woke laughter even in the "jaws of death." We are ourselves acquainted with a gentleman of advanced years who can only take his fiction mild. Naturally fond of reading, and unwilling to depend on the efforts of others for amusement, he peruses a large number of novels. But it is thought better for him that the incidents should not be very graphic, nor the characters delineated with too much spirit. Excitement is thus avoided, and the gentle employment of his time, aided by the slight opiate of reading for any considerable period without great interest, is found to have the best effect. We understand there is little or no difficulty in finding works suited to the peculiarities of his case. Indeed, we think the novel now before us might be very safely prescribed. *The St. Aubyns of St. Aubyn* is a tale of which the main plot can be given in a few words. The hero, Charles Harrington, is a clergyman who falls in love with Geraldine St. Aubyn, the daughter of his squire, Sir Marmaduke. This last being in pecuniary difficulties, will not hear of a poor match, and persuades his daughter to marry a certain Sir Peter Goldmore, who is a very opulent but vulgar person. The alliance turns out unhappily, as Sir Peter not only never addresses his wife without what the authoress calls a "hideous oath," but forgets himself so far as to fling the crockery at her head, reckless, apparently, of the injury which is certain to accrue to his own property. When Sir Peter becomes quite intolerable, he loses all his property, and dies of apoplexy. Now, you might suppose, was the time for the Rev. Charles Harrington to make play. But, unfortunately, he was so fascinating that no sooner had it been denied him to marry Geraldine than he was snapped up by a lovely girl named Alice. Poetical justice is therefore impossible without bigamy, which would be unclerical. So a cousin, entitled Herbert Darcy, comes to the rescue, and Geraldine secures a second husband who does not swear and is more careful of his china than her first lord. The other characters hang about the story till it is pairing-time, and then they go off the scene two and two. This remark does not apply to Lilian Darcy, who is burnt to death in her crinoline, for no conceivable reason apparently, except that the first volume may not end too tamely; nor to Beatrice Monti, who is an Italian lady, and entertains an unrequited affection for Herbert, which causes her to throw herself away on a Polish musician, who leaves her to die in misery in London. As the authoress is not very strong in depicting character, she has had some difficulty in giving an Italian colour to that of Beatrice. So Beatrice does not say a person is beautiful, but that she is "bella," and is not herself called "my dear," but "cara mia." This helps to make her Italian. The high-life scenes are very dull. We learn that in Grosvenor Square they have for dinner "recherché viands,"

and wash them down with "amber-coloured wines." The following is a specimen of drawing-room conversation in the same locality. Sir Peter Goldmore, a rich speculator (afterwards Geraldine's husband), is announced:—

"What a beast!" whispered Lord Claude Berkeley to Herbert Darcy, as they lounged against the folding-doors. "What can society be coming to when it tolerates, nay welcomes, a monster like that?"

"He is in great demand," said Mr. Darcy with a faint laugh; "but I agree with you, he is not nice."

"Nice! laugh!" muttered his lordship, pulling out a cambric handkerchief, from which exhaled a delicate perfume, "the fellow would degrade the second table!"

The personages throughout the book are mere names; there is no human individuality about them. The good ones are daubs in sugar-candy, and the bad one is a blotch of ink. Nothing can be lower than the moral. The hero and heroine are rewarded for flying in the face of the plainest duty. The Rev. Charles Harrington, for proposing to a girl whom he knows he may not marry, and exciting a passion he can never satisfy, is at once presented with another girl almost as beautiful as, and far better than, the one whose happiness he has marred. Geraldine, having accepted a man whom she despises and loathes, is relieved of him by a convenient dispensation when he grows unbearably disagreeable, and is provided with a handsome nice young man, who is not only rich, but, in quite an unexpected way, succeeds to the St. Aubyn property, so as to save her wealth as well as enjoy his own. Clearly in such a world Ahirman has the better of Ormuzd. We can say a good word of the style. It is grammatical and readable throughout, and the arrangement of the story is neat; the different chapters fit in well, and the whole is compact. We think we may predict that we shall hear of the authoress again; for, if this work brings in a small profit over the expense of printing, why should she not write a great many more like it? It cannot be difficult to do, as she knows grammar. Why not the *St. Johns of St. John* next spring? The book is anonymous, but we have spoken of the authoress. For these reasons. Could any one but a lady make a hero of a clergyman who is always falling in love, or dress one of the characters in a "pink grenadine"? There is, indeed, a eulogy of tobacco, but we believe that to be a blind.

The Poet of the Age: a Satirical Poem, with Introduction, Remarks on the Decline of Poetry, and Critical Notes. (Robert Hardwicke.) *Poems.* By Ingle Dew, B.A. (Elliot Stock.) *Cypress Leaves: a Volume of Poems.* By W. H. C. N. (W. Kent and Co.) The author of the *Poet of the Age* is seriously affected by the degeneracy of modern verse, and undertakes to correct the taste of the Mudie-corrupted public which is foolish enough to admire it. Accordingly, he favours us with a "satirical poem" in which he is very hard upon

"Wordsworth, he with daisies crown'd,
On fools and asses most profound,"

and on

"Crabbe, with sea-side rubbish crammed;"

while all that he can say of Tennyson is, that he is one

"Whose tiny thought, but half express'd
To blind conjecture leaves the rest,
For ever painting, as he sings,
Some butterfly with borrow'd wings."

Such triflers, he says, do not deserve the name of poets, but some day or other a prophet will arise, who,

"In words of flame and pomp of verse,
Shall earth's bright destiny rehearse;
Developing from Nature's sacred plan
The rise of Mankind thro' the fall of Man."

The poem is preceded by an introduction seventy pages long, in which the satirist takes the opportunity of displaying the copiousness of his information on things in general. We should imagine that he is some young gentleman of literary tastes who has been lately cramming for a competitive examination, and who has adopted this means of utilizing the result of his studies. He has apparently reached the period of life at which a poetic mind is usually affected by Byronicism, and he has incautiously rushed into print before the influence has passed away. He commences with a sketch of the history of English literature, from which we learn that Spenser was a mere satellite of

Shakespeare, Swift of Pope, and Shelley of Byron. He then proceeds to ask why poetry "is the most unpopular pursuit of the present hour," and informs us that the fault lies in our "carnivorous propensity." We are, in fact, a nation of beef-eaters and porter-drinkers; and the consequence is, that we have no æsthetic tastes, and cannot be expected to appreciate the Beautiful. First of all, then, let us reform our kitchens and lay in a stock of sound claret. But this is not enough. We must get rid of poetesses. Female birds were never intended to sing, and "woman, being incapable of raising herself to the height of man's commanding intellect, has brought that intellect down to the level of her own." Impressed with the importance of this remark, he gives us the benefit of his ideas in reference to the sex generally, and disposes, much to his own satisfaction, of the whole question of woman's rights. Flushed with his success, he couches his pen, and goes full tilt at the "cant" of the day, enters fully into the subject of religious controversy, gives a summary of the disputes between the Reformers and the Church of Rome, and tarries awhile to tell us what he thinks about the Immaculate Conception. Next he undertakes to expose the abominable state of our morals. "Morality," he says, "is now a mere semblance; and everything is managed by the rules of verbal decorum." In illustration of this he gives a sketch of the life of Rush, from whom he diverges to O'Connell, the Peace Congress, Cobden, Free Trade, advertising puffery, and a world of other incongruous subjects, until, having exhausted his information, he returns to the point from which he originally set out, and reiterates his lament that poetry is no more. He writes vigorously both in prose and verse; and we may fairly expect something worth reading from him when time has mellowed the crudeness of his juvenile ideas. Mr. Ingle Dew and W. H. C. N. are authors who have no doubt obtained great success as writers in albums or amateur magazines, and who are too harmless to deserve severe criticism. A man must have a good deal of poetic feeling about him who, like Mr. Dew, sees in the Docks a place

"Where busy men the quays are thronging,
And sales of merchandise;
And absent lovers still are longing
To bless each other's eyes."

This last line expresses the leading idea of a sailor's mind with a delicacy that is above all praise. There are some pretty verses both in this volume and in the *Cypress Leaves*; but we do not understand why the author of the latter volume should complain that

"The serpent spurns
The fostering hand that gave it food
With venom'd fang."

And we believe that, in spite of his loving

"To sit apart,
And ply the faithful pen,"

he is quite justified in saying,

"A bitter thought, yet not less true:
When I am dead, when I am dead,
The world will still its course pursue,
Nor tears will shed, nor tears will shed."

The following have been received:—

A Sketch of the Life and Works of Erasmus Darwin (Lewis).—A Stepping Stone to Homœopathy and Health (Tresidder).—Lovell's General Geography (Low, Son, and Co.).—Shakespeare, a Reprint of his Collected Works, Part 1 (Booth).—A Descriptive Catalogue of the Works of the Camden Society (Nichols and Son).—Queen Elizabeth, a Dramatic Poem (J. and C. Mozley).—The Church of Israel (Hamilton and Co.).—Ministers of Health (Lemare).—Adams's Practical Works, vol. 2 (Nichol).—Colonial Sketches (Hall and Co.).—Cai Julii Cesaris Opera (Parker).—Illustrations of Faith (Parker).—The Messianic Interpretations of the Prophecies of Isaiah (Parker).—Men of the Time, Second Edition (Routledge).—Defence of Dr. Williams (Smith, Elder, and Co.).—Memoir of Thomas Day (Leno).—Guide to Railway Situations (Cassell).—Words of the Angels (Strahan and Co.).—Health, Five Lay Sermons (Strahan and Co.).—Golden Words, No. 1 (Parker).—The Deeper Wrong (Tweedie).—The Captain of the 'Vulture' (Ward and Lock).

—Marrying for Money, 3 vols. (Newby).—Abele, a Tale (Hurst and Blackett).—Cariboo, the Newly-Discovered Gold Fields of British Columbia (Darton).—Shakespeare's Macbeth (Gordon, Edinburgh).—Ammianus Marcellinus's Roman History (Bohn's Classical Library).—The Education Question (Longmans).—Punch, re-issue for 1847. —Words for Women (Seely and Co.).—Life and Epistles of St. Paul, Peoples' edition, 2 vols. (Longmans).—Lessons of My Farm (Lockwood).—London Cab Fares. —Tales Illustrating Church History, vol. i. (Parker).—Minor Prophets, part 3 (Parker).—Notes from Past Life (Parker).—The Age of Little Men (Hardwicke).—The Wreck of the Homeward Bound (Tegg).—The Way to Life (Black).

SERIALS.—Casell's Illustrated Family Paper, Part 50.—Casell's Natural History, Parts 35, 36.—Casell's Popular Educator, Part 2.—The Quiver, Parts 3, 4.—Casell's Illustrated Family Bible, Parts 33, 34.—A Dictionary of Political Economy, Part 6.—Barringtons.—Orley Farm.—Elementary Treatise on Physics, Part 5.—The Shakespeare Cyclopædia, No. 1.—Modern Metre, Part 4.—The Hurst Johnian, No. 39.—Beeton's Illustrated Family Bible, Parts 6, 7.—Beeton's Dictionary of Universal Information, Part 3.—Beeton's Book of Home Pets, Parts 12, 13.—Beeton's Book of Garden Management, Part 6.—The Boy's Own Library, No. 11.

MAGAZINES.—The Christian Advocate.—The Bath and West of England Agricultural Journal.—London Society.—Dublin University.—Macmillan's.—Blackwood.—Deutsches Magazin.—Cornhill.—Intellectual Observer.—Fraser's.—Le Follet.—Good Words.—Pharmaceutical Journal.—Illustrated Dublin Journal.—Duffy's Hibernian.—St. James's.—The Sixpenny.—Temple Bar.—Ladies' Treasury.—The Planet.—Englishwoman's Journal.—Boy's Own.—The Englishwoman's Domestic.—Once a Week.—The Three Penny.—The Church of the People.

ENGRAVINGS.—Shakespeare's Seven Ages of Life, second edition, by Thomas Gills.

PAMPHLETS.—The late Events in Warsaw.—The Reform of the Ecclesiastical Courts.—Two Years of Church progress.—The 'I wills' of Christ.—Guide to the Church Services.—Tracts for the Thoughtful, Nos. 1 and 2.—Astrology in a Nut-shell.—Trades Unions.—The Work which every Man has to do.—History, a Lecture.—Church Authority.—The Education Minute.—The Causes and Consequences of the Civil War in America.—Prevention, or an Appeal to Economy and Common Sense.—The Cotton Crisis and Public Works in India.—A Hope.—Proceedings of the Royal Agricultural Society.—Handbook to Vancouver Island.—Common Prayer and Common Sense.—Bible Advocacy.—Tracts for Women.—The Plumb Line.—The Offertory.—Remarks on the Parochial and Burgh Schoolmasters' Act, 1861.—Metropolitan and Suburban Railway Guide.—The A B C Railway Guide.

BOOKS ANNOUNCED.

Adopted Child (The), a Story, by Author of 'Katherine Douglas,' 12mo, 3s. 6d. Seelye.
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Domestic Hints for Young Mothers, 18mo, 1s. Dean.
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Michell (N.), Wreck of the Homeward-bound, second edition, 16mo, 1s. Tegg.
O'Brien (J. F.), Ten Sermons on Nature and Effects of Faith, second edition, 8vo, 14s. Macmillan.
Oxford University Calendar, 1862, 12mo, 6s.
Pulling (A.), Summary of Law and Practice relating to Attorneys, third edition, 8vo, 18s. Stevens.
Queen Elizabeth, a dramatic poem, in five acts, by L. S. D., 12mo, 5s. Mozley.
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Stewart (D.), Elements of Philosophy of Human Mind, new edition, 8vo, 7s. Tegg.
Thomson (B. D.), School Chemistry, second edition, 12mo, 6s. 6d. Longman.
Wellington (Duke of), Life of, by Brialmont and Gleig, 8vo, 15s. Longman.
White Rose of Chayleigh, a Novel, 3 vols., post 8vo, 31s. 6d. Hurst and Blackett.
Woods (Ann), Waking Moments, 12mo, 1s., 8vo, 2s. Aylott.

THE DUCHESS LOUISA OF SAXE-WEIMAR.

Sir,—The character of the Duchess Louisa of Saxe-Weimar, as it appears in your pages (*Literary Gazette*, 1st March), is so striking, that I was led to seek further information concerning so remarkable a woman. In the third volume of Mrs. Austin's *Characteristics of Goethe*, there is a little memoir of the Duchess, written by Chancellor von Müller, Goethe's friend and executor, who enjoyed ample opportunities of knowing the character he portrays.

In reading this biographical sketch, I met with a few passages which touched a chord that vibrates through all our hearts, and which perhaps will not be unwelcome to your readers. I leave it to them to make the application.

"So pure and genuine a character found universal respect and admiration; and it is remarkable that envy and calumny, 'die so gern das Strahlende zu schwarzen lieben,' never ventured to attack her. Never could a low or unworthy motive be ascribed to a single act of hers with the remotest appearance of probability. Pure and spotless, as she passed through life, did she stand in the opinions of all her contemporaries; and though many a wish was checked by her strict and punctual maintenance of prescribed forms, it never occurred to any one to attribute this to pride, nor to contempt for others."

"That expression of a witty monarch, 'Punctuality is the true politeness of the great,' applied to her in the highest degree. Extremely regular in the distribution of her own time, it was painful to her to know that of others, in any degree invaded; and in the smallest incidents of daily life she never permitted her own caprice or convenience to be put in the place of settled arrangements."

"To many noble-minded women she served as a pattern and a standard through life. In the journal of one long dead were found these striking words:—'Were she but my equal, this noble princess, whom among the many I know, I prefer to all, that I might freely express my love and admiration for her!'"

The following words cannot apply to the constitutional monarch of a mighty realm; but within the narrow range of duties which devolve on the mere head of a court, we find the same principles of action, the same rigorous adherence to duty, which, exercised on a far wider sphere and on more elevated objects,

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have attached a free and powerful people to the person and government of Queen Victoria with an absolute and loving confidence, to which history offers no parallel:—

"As it was an inviolable law with her to shun the slightest appearance of interference in the affairs of government, so, on the other hand, she held it to be her duty, in all that concerned the order and regularity of the court, to enforce her own conviction, that nothing but a consistent adherence to rules, once acknowledged to be useful, could maintain the dignity of the sovereign, and avert the painful impression of arbitrary caprice."

"Truth and fidelity were the elements of her being; and, with all her extreme patience and indulgence for human frailty and error, she never could restrain the most decided expression of contempt when any example of betrayal of confidence, or of falling off in friendship in consequence of altered outward circumstances was mentioned in her presence."

The Duchess's union with her husband is thus spoken of. Whatever in it was bright, noble, and elevated, suggests the far purer and more perfect union which has been the pride and the model of England. The Duchess Louisa's "extreme indulgence for human frailty" is alluded to;—and she had need of it. But she attached herself to the great qualities and great virtues of her husband, and became the half of his better self.

"Years passed, but, in their course, common experience, common joys and cares, an ever clearer and purer perception of mutual worth, and an uninterrupted sincere interchange of ideas and views, raised the union between the noble couple to a rare intimacy and perfection."

"It was her greatest pride to see him turn the whole of his vast activity to the increase of his people's welfare, and the establishment of useful institutions. She took the liveliest interest in every undertaking, and in all cases of private or public difficulty he received the best counsel from her sound and circumspect judgment. Whatever related to art or science excited her warmest interest."

"Everything that tended to the praise and honour of her husband, everything that indicated a true recognition of his many-sided efforts and his noble desires for the public good, and a faithful co-operation in them, was received by her with unconcealed joy and satisfaction."

After that miserable and glorious period in which she "who, during her whole life, had kept far aloof from all political interference, saved her husband and her country at their utmost need, solely by the calm force of her steadfast, consistent character," this noble woman enjoyed some years of tranquil happiness.

"But she had to bear the bitterest that could befall her on earth—the loss of her husband—with whom her whole existence seemed so interwoven, that, as long as she breathed herself, she seemed as if she could not doubt the security of his life."

"Under this heaviest of afflictions she was a perfect model of self-command, dignified fortitude, and entire resignation to the will of Providence. In the ever-increasing feeling of her irreparable loss, she found the only consolation adapted to her character—the certainty that the actively beneficent life, and liberal, expansive principles of her husband would remain an eternal blessing to his age and to posterity. 'My existence is closed,' repeated she frequently; 'the few days I have to live are consecrated to the contemplation of his exalted virtues and to the elevating feeling of his glory.'

"It was her strongest desire to show unremitting attention and respect to all who had been valued and loved by her husband, and often to talk from her full heart of his life and actions."

Thus far the reader cannot fail to be struck with features in this portrait which resemble the angust mourner whose grief lies heavy on all our hearts.

For our country's sake, far distant be the day when the resemblance can be traced further. Yet, as come it must, may it be like this, serene and gentle; the crown and consummation of a spotless, upright, and beneficent life:—

"The tenderest filial love and care surrounded her, and sought consolation in every encouraging word that fell from her lips. No shadow of fear passed over her soul; no complaint, no painful emotion, troubled the serenity of her last moments; gentle and imperceptible was her departure, like the setting of the sun, whose rays continue to lighten upon us even after it has sunk."

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The gigantic skeleton is becoming clothed, the dry bones beginning to live, and what was a mighty void is rapidly filling with a bewildering variety of objects. But still even the most sanguine visitor to the Exhibition building, seeing how much remains to be done, would be slow to believe that the doors will be thrown open to the world on the 1st of May, the curtain rise, and the scenery be in its place. Let the visitor, however, remain for some hours and observe the army of workmen, beneath whose active and skillful hands courts and walls are growing as if by enchantment, and he will be less doubtful and more hopeful that the vast interior will be completed, swept, and garnished by the prescribed time. The rapidity with which the work is being pushed on is amazing, and we might add almost frightful, for scarcely a day passes without one or more workmen falling from great heights. Long accustomed to labour at giddy elevations, they become insensible to danger, and creep along frail spider-web scaffolding which not unfrequently, when insecure, gives way and precipitates them to the ground. When these sad accidents occur the scene that ensues is remarkable. The cry, "Another man down," passes through the building with electric telegraph rapidity, and immediately from all points, attracted by curiosity and a desire to be of service, troops of workmen converge to the locality of the accident. Alas! generally human aid is of little avail, as it is confined to raising the mangled body of the unfortunate workman and bearing him to the nearest hospital, dead or dying. Fatal accidents have indeed lately been of such frequent occurrence as to occasion the Commissioners, to whom the building now belongs, great uneasiness.

As the opening day draws near, manufacturers and tradesmen who have been granted space become clamorous for more, and those who came forward too late are making frantic endeavours to induce superintendents to allow them even the smallest space for exhibiting their goods. There seems to be a very general opinion that it is absolutely necessary to exhibit, and next to occupying space is the desire to have a large allotment. This desire is so common that many tradesmen have asked for an area four times larger than their shop, whilst others are made painfully aware of the disadvantages of a limited education, by finding, to their dismay, that four square feet means four square feet, and not, as they imagined, an area of four feet square. The demands for space are, as may be supposed, out of all proportion with that placed at the disposal of the superintendents by the Commissioners. As an example, we may state that the application for space in the department of philosophical instruments was for twelve thousand eight hundred square feet, while the area given is only two thousand. This has necessitated a formidable cutting down of demands; and though in many cases this leads to the rejection of all demands for space to exhibit articles that may be classed under the head of quackery, and so far works well, on the other hand it is quite certain that many eminent manufacturers have not sufficient room to exhibit; and some, because the space accorded them is insufficient, will not exhibit at all. It must be borne in mind that though the building is vast, only one half is devoted to the United Kingdom, the other being in the hands of foreign nations. Taking these facts into consideration, and bearing in mind that the objects of

this International Exhibition are strictly commercial it becomes very questionable whether the Commissioners have acted wisely in devoting so large a space as they have done to eating and drinking. Already British and foreign exhibitors criticize this huge allotment with great severity; and unfortunately this act is open to the almost equally strong objection that besides lopping so much valuable space from the Exhibition, the hideous wall running from end to end of the building entirely shuts out the view of the Horticultural Gardens. Now were the International Exhibition building at Sydenham, or at an equal distance from London in any other direction, it would be reasonable to provide for the dinner wants of the visitors; but with London at their side, surely it was quite unnecessary to make extensive preparations for dining the multitude at the expense of exhibitors, whose requirements for space cannot now possibly be entertained. This is the more vexatious, because some of the rooms set apart for dinners will assuredly only be occupied by very few of the visitors. Given *cabinets particuliers* and a French *cuisine*, and it needs no great precision to foretell who will patronize Messrs. Veillard and Chabot, the French contractors for supplying refreshments. It will doubtless be a pleasant relief from the eye-aching distraction of sight-seeing to assist in what Brillat Savarin happily calls "la gourmandise classique mise en action;" but we take it that the performers in this agreeable entertainment will not be precisely of that class who will visit the Exhibition to study its commercial and industrial features. Think what a blessing it would be were that frightful prison-like wall removed, and the wearied eye allowed to repose on the tender greensward of the Horticultural Gardens; so it will be, say the Commissioners—"Yes, gentlemen, but not without paying for the enjoyment;" and here we have the explanation of the nuisance—£60,000 has been paid for the privilege of feeding the multitude; so make room, ye manufacturers, for dinner-tables, and let the contractors have a fair opportunity of making some profit on their enormous advance.

Remembering all the fair promises held out in 1851, that the Exhibition of that year would turn swords into sickles, and strife between nations would cease, it is curious and sad to see how large a show munitions of war will make in the forthcoming Exhibition. The terrible war-engines of Armstrong, Whitworth, and others, will be fully represented; and it is contemplated to illustrate our navy by an extensive series of models, from its infancy to the present time.

Foreign nations, and particularly France, are far ahead of England in their preparations. France has already enclosed her huge court with high walls, which, however advantageous to the exhibition of her goods, will not assuredly add to the general effect. Indeed, so completely do these walls shut out the view of adjoining courts, and so seriously are they likely to affect the ventilation, that we wonder the Commissioners have allowed them to be erected.

It is curious to see the foreign courts full of foreign joiners and upholsterers, labouring diligently in their vocation. But it appears that although these men are in many instances brought from distant countries, their labour is more economical than that of English artisans. All those who have been brought over are skilled workmen; and it is intended that they should remain some time in London, in order to profit by the industry of all nations collected in the Exhibition. With this view liberal sums have been granted by foreign cities; the municipality of Vienna having voted 100,000 florins, for the purpose of sending over twenty workmen. Similar steps have been taken by the councils of Gratz, Pesth, Prague, and other towns.

The scaffolding within the domes is now nearly down; it would have been removed earlier, had not the recent storms blown out a great surface of glass, which lies on the ground beneath in shivers. It is satisfactory to know that the damage was limited to this; for an examination of the domes when the wind was exercising the greatest pressure, showed that the ribs and other ironwork are perfectly rigid. This cannot be said for the flooring of the galleries, which is so slight that the tread of a few men causes it to rise and fall in a manner that will be very in-

jurious to such delicate articles as chronometers and philosophical instruments, which will unfortunately occupy the north gallery.

Another serious cause of complaint is the leaky condition of the roofs and gutters, portions of which are little better than sieves. Happily this evil is remediable, and the sooner it is amended the better, for assuredly English exhibitors will not send in their goods or cases until the building be made water-tight.

The shilling catalogue, a marvel in its way, is now set up, but as a matter of course corrections are being made daily, and more than one edition will be issued before it will attain anything like perfection. It will contain many thousand advertisements, and be clad in a well-designed cover, the four sides of which will bear the following Latin inscriptions:—

1. Ad quas res aptissimi erimus in iis potissimum elaboramus.
2. Ars enim cum a Naturâ profecta sit, nisi naturam moveat et delectet nihil sane egisse videtur.
3. Patet omnibus ars: nondum est occupata: multum ex illâ etiam posteris relictum est.
4. Cuncti adsint meritaque expectent premia palme.

We leave our classical readers to criticize the aptness of this Latinity, confining our criticism to the simple but strong opinion that all the inscriptions are a great mistake; for as the catalogue is intended for the million, any inscription should be in vigorous and clear Anglo-Saxon.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

TURIN, March 5.

Piedmont.—Old Piedmont, as its sons rather affect to call it, with somewhat of the same sort of sentiment with which Englishmen talk of Old England,—Old Piedmont is very unmistakably the Sparta of modern Italy. Leaving to the soft, witty, gentle Italian Athens on the Arno, undisputed primacy in intellectual culture, elegance, and all the *agréments* of life, Old Piedmont loves to call herself *leale*, the honest and true. To use an expressive bit of slang, she don't "go in for" the lighter graces; but for manly sincerity, earnestness of purpose and genuine worth.

This being the case, it might be thought, that of all the fair cities of Italy, with their so curious and strongly marked diversities of character and *manière d'être*, Turin would not be that which a stranger should choose for witnessing that most Italian of all the phases of social life in Italy, the keeping of Carnival-tide. Yet, of late years, grave, serious Turin has "gone in for" Carnival fooleries to a very considerable extent; and there are few cities nowadays,—none perhaps, with the exception of Milan,—in which a stranger desirous of studying the humours of a last week of Carnival could do so to greater advantage than in sober-sided old Turin. For Rome and Venice, as we all know, are sitting in sackcloth and ashes, and thinking of other things than Carnival-keeping.

I suppose that it is the ever-laudable *age quod agis* principle, that makes the earnest-minded Torinese enter so thoroughly into the spirit of Carnival fooling. Like other grave folks, whom the reader may have observed under similar circumstances, they seem to think that if the thing is to be done, it had best be well and thoroughly done. "Are we to carry cap and bells, and wear motley for three mortal days and nights? If so, here goes! Let the motley be of the gayest and gaudiest, and the cap and bells of the tallest and the noisiest! Go at it with a will, and see who can be madder than we can, when we choose to set about it!"

So I went to see what a Carnival was like in Turin—grave, almost sombre Turin, with its long, straight, uniformly-arranged streets, looking as if they had been laid out for a military camp by a military engineer, against whose plans and fiat no individuality of will or taste or character could contend—its great formal and symmetrical squares, its huge grenadiers of houses, which always seem to be

drawn up in line, and continually standing at "attention!"

All the world there had fully and deliberately made up its mind to go crazy, duly according to Carnival law, during the last three days before the commencement of Lent—the Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, that is to say, preceding Ash Wednesday. But, true to its traditions of law, order, and authority, it was minded to have a method in its madness, do its fooling according to rule, and perform its antics by word of command.

So a "commission" was duly appointed for the superintending and carrying out of a pre-ordained scheme of buffoonery; regulations and a programme were drawn up and published; and here are some of the principal features of it.

On the Sunday, at two o'clock in the afternoon, was to take place "the Coronation of Petrarch on the Capitol at Rome." This notion of engrafting an historical representation on the old stock of the Carnival buffooneries, and thus getting something of real meaning and popularly instructive significance out of the occasion, is a new one, and is characteristic of the movement of ideas at the present time in the peninsula. On Easter-day, in the year 1341, Petrarch was crowned on the Capitol at Rome. In the library of the Borghese Palace in that city there is preserved a manuscript account of the entire ceremony which then took place, by Ludovico Bonconte, who was an eye-witness of the festival, as follows:—

"On Easter-day, which in the year 1341 fell on the 8th of April, Messer Orso Conte di Anguillara came to crown Messer Francesco Petrarcha, a noble and well-known poet; and it was done on the Capitol in the manner following. Twelve youths, each of fifteen years old, were dressed in red; and they were all sons of gentlemen and citizens. One was of the family of Del Forno, one a Frimia, one a Capizuchi, one a Cafarella, one a Cancellieri, one a Cacinio, one a Rosso, one a Capazuchi, one a Paparese, one an Altieri, one a Lemi, and one an Astalli. And then these youths recited many verses before the people, written by this Petrarcha. And then six citizens, a Savelli, a Conti, an Orsini, an Annibale, a Paparese, and a Montanaro, advanced, all dressed in green cloth, and carried each of them a crown of different flowers. And then appeared the Senator in the midst of a great number of citizens; and he carried in his hand a crown of laurel; and he took his seat on the estrade which had been prepared; and the said Messer Francesco Petrarcha was called with sound of trumpets and bagpipes; and he presented himself clothed in a long gown, and said three times, 'Long live the Roman people and the Senators, and may God maintain them in liberty!' And then he knelt down before the Senator, who said, 'This crown is the reward of excellence;' and he took the garland from his own head and placed it on that of Messer Francesco, who recited to him a beautiful sonnet in praise of the valour of the ancient Romans. And so the thing ended with much honour to the poet; for all the people cried, 'Long live the Capitol and the poet!'"

How amusingly characteristic is the precedence thus awarded by the popular enthusiasm of the Romans! And this was the pageant which was to be reproduced—red cloth, green cloth and all—for the nineteenth-century Torinese. A very spacious platform, raised on scaffolding, with a large and handsome flight of steps leading up to it, was constructed in the Piazza di Castello, the principal and most central square of Turin, immediately behind the old mediæval castle, from which the place takes its name. A great procession was to consist, as per programme, of—1, a squadron of trumpeters on horseback; 2, a herald on horseback, bearing the banner of Rome; 3, another squadron of cavalry; 4, a car, with a band and chorus of men; 5, a second car, with a band and chorus of men; 7, a third car, with the Senator of Rome and other principal Roman citizens with pages; 7, a band of Roman youths on horseback; 8, another band of Roman citizens on horseback; 9, the *Car of Petrarch*, with pages; 10, a squadron of cavalry. All this procession was to pass through the principal streets of the city; and the "Corso," which of course is *de rigueur* a main feature in all Carnival doings, was to follow in its wake.

The official programme also gives the verses written for the occasion, and set to music for the above-mentioned choirs of male and female voices. But I do not feel sure that the readers of the *Gazette* would thank me for taking the trouble to translate them. Of course they mainly consist of allusions in opera-words style to the present condition of Rome, and to the future to which Italian hopes aspire for it.

On the Monday, at one o'clock, was another grand "Corso" in full dress, and with masks. For the Corso on Sunday and that on Monday, the "Regolamento" printed with the programme states that no carriage unfitted to take part "decorously" in a full-dress Corso will be admitted; the Torinese traditions in this matter being contrasted with the more democratic habits of Florence, where the shabbiest and most miserable hack carriage, drawn by the wretchedest of jades, may be seen following the most gorgeous equipage in the city.

On the Monday night a masked ball at the King's Theatre. N.B. "Dress coats *de rigueur* for those not in costume;" differing again from easy-going Florence, where nothing is ever "*de rigueur*."

For the Tuesday, the great last day, when Carnival madness is supposed to be at its culminating point, the programme announced the "*Corso con maschere e getto di coriandoli*,"—with masks and throwing of comfits. The word *coriandoli*, which is in every mouth in Italy during the last days of Carnival, is more properly written *curiandoli*, and signifies the seed of the coriander. Hence, from the use of those seeds to form the centre of sugar-plums, the word comes to mean comfits in general. But in these degenerate days its Carnival sense has unhappily fallen yet further away from the original meaning. When the old custom (better adapted for a small social world where everybody knew everybody, than for the heterogeneous crowds of modern cities), of pelting acquaintances with bonbons became changed into the diversion of deluging an entire city with a hail-storm of them, modern utilitarianism began to seek to cheapen its ammunition. The comfits became less and less sugary, and more and more chalky, till nowadays they are avowedly made of plaster, are sold by the sack, and anybody would as soon think of eating gravel as Carnival "*coriandoli*." This throwing of comfits, or rather of little plaster pellets about the size of a pea, seems to be the most popular part of the Saturnalia. The quantity manufactured and sold for the purpose is enormous, and those who enter into the fun of the hour with spirit lay in a stock of many sacks full of the ammunition. All the balconies on the line of the Corso, comprehending all the principal streets in the city are filled with parties of *rieurs* and *rieuses*, bent on assailing their acquaintances specially, and the general public, with whitening showers, as the file of carriages passes in never-ceasing string beneath them. And these balcony-holders have the best of the game; for in the first place they see all the Corso fun before them, and in the second place, they can pour down their storm of plaster pellets in perfect avalanches on the devoted heads of the passers beneath them, while of course these latter are able to return the fire very much less effectually. Nevertheless, there are always in the Corso a number of huge lofty cars constructed on large waggons, handsomely hidden by upholstery, from the elevated platforms of which parties, some fifteen or twenty strong, of the *jeunesse dorée* contend on tolerably equal terms with the holders of the balcony fortresses.

Of course any one foolish or inexperienced enough to venture out on this day with a handsome carriage or a decent coat returns home with coat or carriage spoiled, as far as being reduced to the appearance of millers and millers' carts can spoil them. Everything in the line of the Corso—pavement, house fronts, carriages, people—are very shortly after the commencement of the fun reduced to one uniform appearance of having been well dredged with flour.

At steady authority-loving Turin all this is done in conformity with strict rules laid down for the purpose. No *coriandoli* may be sold or thrown save such as have been visited and approved by the commission appointed *ad hoc*. It is expressly forbidden to gather up from the ground those which

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had been already thrown, to throw them again; and, finally, it is forbidden to those on foot to throw at all. The assailants must be in carriages or on horseback, or in the balconies; this seems hard on the democracy at the first sight, more especially as they, the foot-passengers, are exposed to any amount of pelting from the more favoured occupants of the houses and carriages. But the rule is not without its reason. Should improper missiles be thrown from house or carriage, it is very easy to know and lay hands on the offender; but it would be easy for any one in the crowd to throw what might be really dangerous, and escape detection.

At Florence, whose old traditions of Carnival funning were of a more intellectual, if perhaps not of a much more refined or more moral kind, this *coriandoli* war is a new thing. It was done this year at Florence; but in true Florence fashion, no rules or regulations were made on the subject. As is the usual practice on the banks of the Arno, every one was left to follow his own devices. And the accounts I hear of the "Corso con Coriandoli," among the descendants of the old republicans, show that the Turinese regulations are really not unneeded. The mob in the streets at Florence assailed the occupants of the carriages with all sorts of missiles, in most cases of a very disagreeable kind, and in some of a sort really dangerous. Thus brickdust, ashes, mud, raw potatoes, hard chestnuts, and in some instances stones were thrown; and the play became so rough that it is probable, on a future occasion, Florence will have to admit that *coriandoli*-throwing is not adapted to her, or to submit to the regulations in force elsewhere.

At Turin, the final bit of the mummery consists of burning, with plenty of fireworks, a colossal wicker-work figure, supposed to represent and personify "Carnival." This is first drawn with much ceremony round the city, and then at midnight burned in the middle of the great square, just under the windows of the royal palace.

And then the Carnival is over! And the next day the city awakes to Lenten fare, and, theoretically, to Lenten thoughts,—those

"Sermons and soda-water the day after."

which form, it would seem, all the world over, in the moral as in the physical world, the natural sequence to over-much feasting. T. A. T.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

Dear Sir,—A paragraph in the *Literary Gazette*, No. 193, of March 8th, page 232, has drawn attention to the discovery of what appear to be fossil footprints of great birds or other animals in the "Hastings Sand" of the Wealden formation, at Hastings. An account of what is already known of these curious fossils, although it will perhaps throw only an uncertain light on their real relationships, will, at all events, save some of your readers (should they interest themselves in the subject) much trouble in hunting up what others have written thereon, and will guide them, both in an intelligent search for more specimens, and in seeking for the origin of the footprints themselves.

These fossils are usually three-lobed masses of calciferous sandstone, about twenty inches in length, with a nearly equal breadth across the three radiating toe-like projections, which usually join at their base with a heel-like or palm-like prominence. The specimens have been generally found isolated on the beach; but occasionally slabs of rock bearing two or more have been seen. In the latter case, the distance between the footprints (in serial order, from toe to heel) has been observed to be from about two feet to nearly four feet, in accordance with the size of the footprints, and therefore probably with that of the animal that left the track. The separate blocks of stone, modelled by the waves into the three-lobed form, dependent on the three thick "toes" and their palmar junction, have their origin as follows:—Thin beds of sandstone, strengthened by lime, are here and there suddenly thickened by

being made to take prominent casts of tridrid prints (sometimes three or four inches deep) in clay immediately beneath: the weather or the sea (in different parts of the cliffs) wears away the clay-beds; and, after overhanging for awhile, the sandstones break and fall, either piecemeal, each piece being a single foot-cast, broken away from the bed by its relative weight, or as larger slabs, with two or even more of the thick tri-lobed casts upon them. In these instances, therefore, the fossil evidences of the foot-tracks are preserved for us in the natural casts (in sandstone) of the imprints originally made on surfaces of mud or clay. Occasionally the sandstone itself bears the hollow prints of foot-tracks on rippled surfaces (as in the case of the specimen alluded to in the *Literary Gazette* of March 8). The sandstone is fine-grained, and owes its toughness to the carbonate of lime derived from numerous bivalve shells (*Cyrena*) which have become more or less decomposed.

Mr. S. H. Beckles, who has preserved from destruction several of the specimens above described, and to whom we owe nearly all the observations already published on this subject, has also found similar tridrid markings on softer shaly strata to the west of St. Leonards. These are mostly smaller, lying more or less distinctly in single rows on the surface of the greyish-blue shale at low-water, and vary in size from about eight inches in length (with an interspace or "stride" of seventeen inches), to twenty-four inches, with proportionally longer intervals. These footprints rarely appear as concave impressions, being represented actually by portions of a once-overlying bed retained in the once-hollow impressions on the shale. But investigators accustomed to observe and compare fossil tracks and trails know the infinite varieties of condition that are presented by the vestigial tokens of bygone animals on the varying surfaces of different deposits of clay and sand; and these foot-tracks fully partake of this necessary variability of form and condition within certain limits.

The footprints are found at at least two horizons in the strata of the cliffs east and west of Hastings, and may be said to belong both to the upper and the lower portion of the "Hastings Sand"—the middle division of the Wealden formation. Similar tracks are preserved at the Geological Society's rooms in a slab of Purbeck limestone, and must therefore have belonged to a still lower geological horizon; but the place of its finding is not known. The strata of Durlstone Bay, near Swanage, should be closely examined by local geologists for these interesting traces of the gigantic land animals of the later Mesozoic period. Tracks of like character have also been discovered, by Mr. Hancock, near Cuckfield, and here also they belong to the upper portion of the Hastings Sand series.

By what animals were these footprints made? Being three-toed and arranged in single rows, they have been regarded as those of gigantic birds similar to such as are supposed to have left the many prints and tracks on the still older sandstones of Connecticut, in Massachusetts. No relics of the bones or feathers of birds have been found in the latter case; but fragments of bird-bones (not of a large size) are said to have been found in some of the Wealden beds of Sussex, probably in the upper part of the "Hastings Sand." There are other animals, however, belonging to the "Wealden," and far better known than the birds of that period, that may have had to do with the foot-tracks in question; namely, the great land reptiles, of which we see excellent models in the Crystal Palace Park—the *Iguanodon*, the *Hylaeosaurus*, and the *Megalosaurus*. These were all probably amphibious, and haunted the muddy lagoons and alluvial flats that are now represented by the clays, shales, and laminated sandstones of the Purbeck and Wealden beds, in many of which their remains are not uncommon.

Describing the fossil footprints, Mr. Beckles leans to the belief that birds were probably the agents in producing these tracks; but he also refers to the fact, that quadrupeds, instead of always making a biserial set of footprints, often leave only a single row, just as is always the case with bipedal animals. Since Mr. Beckles wrote on the subject, he has found (among other important paleontological discoveries in the Isle of Wight, Purbeck, and elsewhere) all the

bones of the foot of an *Iguanodon*, together with other parts of the skeleton; and this foot is *three-toed*, and of a size quite comparable with the majority of the fossil footprints found near Hastings. We may therefore be allowed provisionally to refer these tracks to the *Iguanodon*, who certainly wallowed in the Wealden waters and frequented their sand-bars and mud-banks,—who had a great three-toed foot—and who, like some other quadrupeds (such as the *Tapir*, &c.), may have usually, if not always, planted his footsteps uniserially, leaving as his spoor a single row of thick-toed, tridrid imprints, sometimes showing the marks both of toes and heel, sometimes of the toes only, according to the firmness of the mud or sand on which he walked.

The following is the bibliographical history of the "Wealden Footprints":—

In 1846 Mr. Edward Tagart noticed the occurrence of tridrid bodies, similar to natural casts of footprints of birds, at Hastings.—*Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. ii. p. 267.

Previous to 1847, one or more similar fossils had been found at Brixton Bay, Isle of Wight, by Mr. Saxby, as noticed by Dr. Mantell, in his *Geology of the Isle of Wight*, first edition, p. 247 and p. 328. Dr. Mantell suggested that further search should be made as to whether the tridrid bodies occurred in serial order; but he believed them to be concretions, possibly of fucal origin.

In January, 1851, Mr. Beckles communicated a note to the Geological Society (*Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. vii. p. 117), mentioning his discovery of several specimens of these footprints, some of which indicated a serial arrangement. These were from the cliffs east and west of Hastings; mostly detached on the beach; but some, at four miles east of Hastings, were *in situ* in the cliffs, at about forty feet above the sea-level.

In 1852, Mr. Beckles gave some further information upon this subject (*Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. viii. p. 396). Outline-figures of some of the "tridrids" were given, and proofs of their serial arrangement further advanced. Specimens had now been found along the cliffs for an extent of nearly eighteen miles.

In June, 1854, Mr. Beckles again put his notes together, and gave a still more detailed account of his observations on the subject; including a notice of some new discoveries of these gigantic tridactyle footprints. (*Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. x. p. 456, illustrated by Plate 19.) He there treats of the geological position of the "Ichnites," or "Ornithoidichnites," and of their special characters; he describes four series of footsteps of different sizes, and he concludes that they were probably due to birds, but without speaking decisively on the subject.

In 1857 these fossil footprints were alluded to in the first volume of Rupert Jones's edition of Mantell's *Wonders of Geology*, p. 383; and Mr. Jones, in the preface to vol. ii. (1858) of the same work, intimated the probable relationship of the three-toed foot of the *Iguanodon* with these fossil footmarks or Ichnites.

Specimens may be seen in London at the British Museum; at the Museum of the Geological Society, Somerset House; and at the Museum of the Geological Survey, Jermyn Street.

At Stammerham and elsewhere, near Horsham, Sussex, ripple-marked sandstones are quarried extensively; these often bear curious and ambiguous markings, some of which may be footprints. Critical observation should be extended to this interesting locality, where the Horsham stone or sandy beds of the lower part of the Weald Clay (see Mr. Drew's paper in the *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. xvii. p. 284) may be expected to yield as good evidence of the spoor of the old land-reptiles and of birds, if they existed, as those obtained from the lower beds in the Hastings Sand. T. R. J.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Bonomi, the new Keeper of Sir John Soane's Museum, proposes to mark his first year of office by publishing the full details of the sculptured inscriptions on the Egyptian sarcophagus which is the

great ornament of the collection in Lincoln's Inn Fields. It is by far the most valuable sarcophagus known, covered with hieroglyphics inside and out, and far older than any other. It is of semi-transparent arragonite, slightly shaped to the body; and no doubt it once held a first and a second wooden coffin, which had been destroyed by those who had entered the tomb before it was discovered by Belzoni.

The debate in the House of Commons on Tuesday last, on Lord H. Lennox's motion—"That this House is of opinion that for the preparation of any estimates, and for the expenditure of any moneys, voted in aid of the British Museum, the National Gallery, and all other institutions having for their object the promotion of education, science, and art, one Minister of the Crown should be responsible to this House," was gratifying, as showing that some members of the House at least are alive to the necessity of watching with a careful eye the expenditure of public money on those institutions. Lord H. Lennox drew particular attention to the case of the British Museum, objecting strongly to its government by trustees, and was followed on the same side by Mr. Gregory, who recommended the appointment of three responsible directors—one for the library, one for the antiquities, and one for the natural history. Mr. Gregory condemned very strongly the manner in which the *ex-officio* trustees were whipped up on any important occasion, such as that of the meeting to consider the transfer of the natural history collections to South Kensington, and their numerical strength made to swamp the elected and family trustees, who are for the most part the working members. Mr. Coningham spoke, as usual, in condemnation of the South Kensington Museum and its management, expressing himself as very much better satisfied with that of the older institution. Mr. Gladstone, in reply to the noble mover, admitted that there was much in his speech that demanded attention, but he justified the manner of government by trustees as existing in the British Museum. Much good, he contended, had already sprung from that government, as an instance of which he mentioned the erection of the noble reading-room in Great Russell Street. Upon the interruption of an hon. member, that this was due to the genius of Mr. Panizzi, our Chancellor nevertheless still insisted strongly upon the trustees' right to share the credit, as he was only their servant. Finally, Mr. Gladstone made the intimation that in a short time—in fact, before Easter—Ministers would be prepared to make their intentions known with respect to the transfer of the natural history collections, as well as certain modifications in the government of that great national establishment. Upon this, Lord H. Lennox withdrew his motion, which, however, has had the good effect of preparing the mind of the House for a more complete discussion of the whole question. We would strongly advise those members who intend taking a part in it, to make themselves masters of the evidence and report both of the Royal Commission and the House of Commons' Committee on the subject, and we would also particularly direct their attention to the protest issued only a very few years ago by all the chief naturalists and scientific men of the country, against dismembering the British Museum by a transference of the natural history collections to a distant suburb.

On Thursday, in last week, the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Nearly thirteen hundred persons assembled in the Town Hall, where a choice and extensive collection of oil paintings, water-colours, rare engravings, and antique manuscripts and autographs, was provided for the occasion. Some curious old Bibles were perhaps the object of greatest interest, several dating as far back as 1460. The Rev. H. H. Higgins, the President, in an appropriate and comprehensive address, traced the origin and gradual rise of the Society, which, it appears, claims to be the oldest provincial Society of this description in Great Britain, with the single exception of that existing at Manchester. From the remarkable success which has attended this meeting the Liverpool Society promises to maintain among its many younger rivals the prestige conferred upon it by its seniority.

A memoir of Thomas Bewick, the father of wood-engraving, written by himself, is preparing for publication. The work will be embellished with a number of vignettes which have never before been published, and will also contain the finished cuts of the work on British Fishes, on which Bewick was engaged at the time of his death.

The Society of Antiquaries are about to hold another exhibition. It will be remembered that a short time since they brought together a remarkable collection of early printed books, and that some curious facts were elicited relative to a hitherto unknown work by the martyr Tyndal. It is now proposed to exhibit the autographs of remarkable personages, and the Guildhall authorities have already been applied to for the famous deed of Shakespeare and other autographs of the illustrious bard in the possession of the Corporation. The exhibition is announced for the 3rd of April, and any of our readers who may have specimens of the handwriting of celebrated men and women, and who would wish to lend them to the Society, can address the secretary, Mr. C. Knight Watson, before the 25th inst., which is the last day autographs can be received.

The literature or printed documents of commerce and of governments, like their coins and money-tokens, is a matter of important history, and a subject at all times interesting to the curious inquirer. The money spent yearly in making Bank of England notes is equal to a magnificent fortune; and at the Post Office the manufacture of postage labels and stamped envelopes is estimated during the present year to amount to no less a sum than £27,916. The poundage allowed to distributors amounts to £4600. The sum of £1000 per year is now allowed in the estimate as the additional expenditure entailed by increasing business. This sub-department employs forty persons. The whole Post Office department employs more than twenty-five thousand persons in the United Kingdom.

Announcements of books and literary ventures in connection with the forthcoming World's Fair are falling thickly upon us. One of the latest, we note, is that put forth by Messrs. Day and Son, the eminent lithographers, whose skill in chromo-lithography produced the very beautiful *Treasury of Ornamental Art* soon after the exposition of 1851. The title of their new work is to be *Masterpieces of Industrial Art and Sculpture at the Industrial Exhibition of 1862*, by J. B. Waring, Esq.

The first stone of the Royal mausoleum, in Frogmore Gardens, in which are to be deposited the remains of the late Prince Consort, was laid on Saturday, the 15th inst., by the hand of our sovereign Queen. The inscription on the block runs as follows:—"The foundation-stone of the building erected by Queen Victoria in pious remembrance of her great and good husband, was laid by her the 15th day of March, A.D. 1862."

"Blessed are they that sleep in the Lord."

The mausoleum is to be erected from the designs of Mr. A. G. Humbert, architect, and the statue of the Prince, in a reclining position, will be executed by Baron Marochetti.

We learn that the Poet Laureate has in preparation an Ode for the opening of the coming International Exhibition, commemorating the public virtues of the late Prince Consort, in terms in harmony with his poem lately published as a preface to his new edition of the *Idylls of the King*, and embodying several of those lines.

It is stated that to the International Exhibition Egypt will contribute, amongst other old-world curiosities, the famous ancient jewellery discovered by M. Mariette some years ago on the mummy of one of the daughters of the Pharaohs.

It is an unfortunate thing in life that there are certain subjects upon which we all feel a little, not intentionally and from forethought, but from an excess of good-nature, and a certain pleasant giving way to an easily-tickled imagination. Upon the subject of one's age—especially ladies, the salary of our most respected relation at the Admiralty, the singular wealth of the old bachelor uncle in the country, and on the wonderful circulation of the

monthly magazines, we are nearly all of us liable to stretch a little—nearly all as bad as each other. What fabulous numbers have not been mentioned at dinner-tables and other places conducive to an excess of good-nature, as representing the total circulation of the admirably-conducted *Cornhill Magazine*—200,000, 150,000, 100,000, and so on. A hard-working news-agent and magazine dealer, who knows to a nicety what the members of his trade use, and the numbers turned out by the bookbinders—which body, by the way, cannot very well be ignorant of the quantities that pass through their hands—forwards the following list of circulations attained by the new shilling magazines:—*Cornhill Magazine*, 30,000; *Macmillan*, 14,000; *Temple Bar*, 15,000; *St. James's*, 13,000. Of course we do not vouch for the entire accuracy of the above figures, but we think, from inquiries made in another direction, that they very fairly represent the circulation of the magazines in question.

News of a startling character is just come to hand. Mr. Thackeray will no longer be the active editor of the *Cornhill Magazine*. "The fact," remarks our trade contemporary, "has been attended by none of those disagreeable features which generally characterize changes of the kind. Mr. Thackeray has not quarrelled with Cornhill publishers or Cornhill readers, nor has he, we presume, been visited by any feeling of false shame at those magnificent transactions by which he is popularly represented to have been accustomed to draw the City of its specie, and seriously disturb the exchanges between Cornhill and Brompton. The facts are, we believe, very simple. The position of an editor of a popular magazine in these days is by means so delightful and free from vexations as correspondents imagine, or perhaps as Mr. Thackeray himself may have imagined in his youthful days, when he was a brilliant and successful contributor to *Fraser*. Editors in these times work in glass hives. Even the old anonymous system, which was a barrier at least against the bulk of intruders, is gone. Unreasonable correspondents will penetrate into his private retirement with introductions and other roundabout ways of obtaining attention,—will take up time, and will hold the unlucky editor responsible for everything. It is, we can understand, an unpleasant thing to enter a room full of company, and see at a glance several gentlemen 'who write with ease,' and whose generous offers of help you have been compelled to decline with hypocritical thanks; and it cannot be agreeable to hear those gentlemen's whisperings as to how you are falling off, or writing yourself out, or presenting us with scenes and characters 'monstrously overdrawn.' Mr. Thackeray's connection with the yellow-covered magazine is not, however, entirely to cease upon his retirement from the editorial chair. Although his name will not figure at the bottom of Messrs. Smith and Elder's bill as the stage manager, still we may expect it at the top of the *Cornhill* programme, announcing him as their leading actor.

The privately printed *Journal kept during a visit to Germany in 1799-1800*, by Mrs. St. George, afterwards Mrs. Trench, which her son, the Dean of Westminster, has very recently circulated amongst a few friends, is to be published *extenso*. The fact of its being first issued privately, may have contributed not a little to its popularity. There is a charm about books not intended for the vulgar gaze, and a temptation to pluck fruit that has been forbidden. Many a worthless production sells for pounds, just because the author, knowing it will not in open market find a sale, affixes the magic words "privately printed" to the title. In the case of Mrs. Trench's *Journal*, however, this last remark of ours certainly will not apply. From the name of the editor, and the restriction placed upon its circulation, the conductors of magazines and newspapers have very generally been curious to see and notice the work; and from several pungent extracts that have come under our notice, we feel assured that it will be read with satisfaction by the public at large. The book will form a volume of five hundred pages.

Do people ever attain the age of a hundred? Such was the subject of a literary discussion not long since. The memories of old people were shown to be proverbially defective. Parish registers have

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only in modern times been properly looked after; so that these important evidences can only be taken for what they are worth. Old writers, too, were found to have been always fond of the marvellous, and naturally inclined to discourse about Old Parrs and persons like Henry Jenkins. The newspapers now, however, report the death of a negro, named Micaiah Phillips, aged a hundred and twenty-five years. Upon strict inquiry this great age will probably be found to dwindle down into something more like the ordinary span of human existence.

The late Mr. John Pease, the eminent Quaker of Bristol, has left behind him a manuscript prepared for the press, entitled *Axiomata Pacis*. The work will embody Mr. Pease's opinions on many subjects, as reported from his conversations. Messrs. Longman and Co. will issue it in one volume.

As connected with the political history of Playing-cards, we may mention a curious fact stated in a Turin newspaper. It appears that a card manufacturer at Milan has conceived the idea of making packs, in which the knaves (the word is not meant in an offensive sense) represent Masaniello, Balilla, Pietro, Micea, and Garibaldi; their chief exploits being displayed on the four aces. The four queens are Blanche of Sicily, Caterina Segurana, Christiana of Savoy, and Marie de Medicis. The four kings are Berengarius, Amadeus VI., Charles Emmanuel, and the King. Whilst on the subject of political cards, we may mention that an interesting chapter will be devoted to this subject in the forthcoming *History of Playing-cards and Card-conjuring*, by the Rev. Ed. S. Taylor, of Great Yarmouth.

The Continental journals announce the death of two eminent personages.—Henri Scheffer, the brother of the celebrated Ary Scheffer, and a painter himself of no slight renown; and the composer Halévy. The latter had been ailing for some time, and was residing at Nice when the melancholy occurrence took place.

The sale of the important collection of original drawings by Flaxman is announced to take place on April 10th, at Messrs. Christie's, in King Street, St. James's.

A new poem by Mr. Alfred Austin is announced, *The Human Tragedy*. Mr. Austin has gone back, it appears, to his original publisher, Mr. Robert Hardwicke.

We are now informed that a second and third edition of Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton's *Strange Story* has been sold, the first having gone off within a few days of its publication.

SCIENCE.

SOCIAL SCIENCE.

Transactions of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science. London: J. W. Parker and Son.

(Continued.)

Mr. Edward Webster next proposes a scheme for the "Transfer and Mortgage of Freehold Estates in England and Wales," by the voluntary registration of the title. He suggests the construction of a metropolitan court, consisting of a superior officer, to be called the Registrar-General, with a sufficient subordinate staff for the voluntary registration of the signing of titles to freehold land in England and Wales, this to be called the Metropolitan Land Registration Court. Its duties would be, first, to register titles to freehold land, to enable the registered proprietors to effect a legal transfer or mortgage by the registration of the title; second, to permit every person to register himself as proprietor of freehold land in respect of any assignable titles, and to give a certificate of registration under the office seal; third, to rule that the title when registered be absolutely capable of being legally transferred or mortgaged, except by registered

transfer or mortgage certified to under seal; fourth, on decease of a registered proprietor, to allow his legal representative, on producing the necessary document from the Probate Court, to be registered as the proprietor; fifth, to secure that all registered transfers and mortgages be effected in writing in a prescribed form through solicitors appointed for the purpose, on the same principles as the sworn brokers who effect the sales and transfers of stock at the Bank of England. In a series of six, seven, and eight rules, points relating to mortgages are referred to. A first mortgage is to be effected by a registered transfer of the land by way of mortgage into the name of the mortgagee; a second or subsequent mortgage states the prior mortgage, and is registered through the land registration brokers; and the redemption of a registered mortgage is effected in a prescribed form through the land registration brokers in which the mortgagor is registered. Mr. Webster opines that the voluntary registration of title is thoroughly practicable, and would receive the assent of the Legislature.

"Joint-Stock Frauds: Should the Accounts of Joint-Stock Companies be Audited by a Public Officer?" This question, put by D. C. Heron, Q.C., is discussed at some length, and various frauds of an enormous kind are given in detail. The conclusion to which the author comes is the unpleasant one, "that nothing appears more easy either for a dishonest servant or a dishonest director than to rob a joint-stock company." But as joint-stock companies receive from the Legislature important privileges, which enable them to accumulate vast capital, and as it is very easy to plunder these companies, and the punishment of the plunderer is very little consolation to the persons who lose their money, Mr. Heron proposes that all joint-stock companies should be subject to the inspection and audit of a public office, which might be made one of the permanent departments of the Board of Trade.

Under the Section *Laws Relating to Persons*, we find a paper on "The Law of Marriage and Divorce as at present existing in England, Ireland, and Scotland," by Alfred Waddilove, D.C.L. The author commences with the history of the legal systems of marriage in the three countries; and next as to the methods and extent to which husband and wife may obtain legal separation. In England and Ireland there is no difference as to contracting Protestant marriages; it only exists in Roman Catholic marriages. In Scotland, as to contract, the law differs widely from that of the rest of the kingdom. As to divorce, each country has its own separate and distinct mode of procedure, each differing from the other, each followed by different consequences. As a remedy for the differences existing as to divorce, Mr. Waddilove suggests that the extension of the English Divorce Act to the rest of the kingdom would be the most simple and efficacious method; embodying, in one comprehensive Act with special provisions, one system common to the empire. In respect to marriage, he suggests again that the marriage law of England is one best fitted for general adoption, and this specially because from any of the countries an appeal in the last resort may go to the House of Lords.

Mr. William O'Connor Morris, in a paper on the "Marriage Question," considers four topics;—the cardinal principles which should regulate

this great relation in its outer and public bearings; the extent in which the principles actually embodied in the laws exist in the three kingdoms; the effects of the conflicts of laws on marriage in Great Britain; and, lastly, the reforms that may be effected without "committing waste on our ancient inheritance, or overthrowing the original fabric." We cannot follow Mr. O'Connor Morris through the three first of the points put forward, but we may touch on the reforms he proposes. He is for the abolishment of all irregular Scotch marriages, and advocates that the marriage law of Ireland should be assimilated to that of England, with this difference, that as in fact our Established Church is not national, so it should not have there, as in England, the privilege of marrying all couples without the intervention of a State functionary.

"The Changes in Marriage Laws required, so as to ensure a complete Registration of Marriage in Ireland," forms the subject of a paper by Mark O'Shaughnessy. The author argues that while it is the object of all preceding formalities to prevent clandestinity, the point to which legislation should tend should be to procure a record of the fact of marriage, a record readily accessible and easily capable of proof. If this can be attained without interference with ecclesiastical discipline, and without imposing conditions upon the clergy which may clash with their duties, an important object would be achieved. All legal distinctions, therefore, which prevent marriage between persons of different creeds should be removed; nor should there be any penal consequence attending the act which should prevent its being duly acknowledged by the celebrant or the parties, whatever their creed may be. The author concludes by giving certain forms of enactments bearing on his views.

"The Marriage Law of Scotland," by J. Campbell Smith, forms the subject of a very curious and interesting communication. According to the law of Scotland, marriage is a contract to complete which the only essential is the consent of the man and woman to become husband and wife. That consent does not require to be expressed in any form of words, or in words at all, if it be a necessary inference from the conduct of the parties. Nor does it require to be preceded by proclamation of banns, or to be preceded by any ceremony religious or the reverse; hence marriages in Scotland are never celebrated in churches, but in private houses; a minister is present to exhort the parties, and listen, with other witnesses, to the interchange of consent to marry; but his presence or his absence is of no consequence to the validity of the contract. The notion in England and Ireland seems to be that all, or nearly all, of the marriages in Scotland are irregular, but there is not one irregular marriage for five hundred regular marriages. The parties who enter into irregular marriage are liable to fine and censure of the Church, and the celebrator of them to banishment from Scotland. Between marriages in Scotland and England there is no difference in law worthy of note. Both are valid, but as to irregular marriages, the laws of Scotland and England differ entirely; because, the law of England, since 1753, does not recognize the validity of irregular marriages, whereas the law of Scotland does. It accepts the result of experience that there will be irregular marrying, or something worse, and tries to adjust itself to necessity, and to do justice, which is all that is possible for human frailty to do. According

to Mr. Smith, every man in Scotland, and certainly every woman, is resolved to retain the old law; and he asks, if it be necessary to the honest fulfilment of a contract, and to the proof of it, that it be entered into in church, why should not every civil contract be made in church instead of in the market-place? In a word, he is a staunch advocate of the Marriage Law of Scotland, and an able advocate too.

Reports of Committees.

The reports of two committees, one of the "General Committee on Mercantile Legislation," and the other of a "Special Committee on the Patent Laws," form the last portion of this Section.

The Report on Mercantile Legislation states that the new Act of Bankruptcy Law Amendment exhibits defects and incompleteness which will render necessary a further amendment. If the Act had dealt with its subject thoroughly and perfectly, it would have been a matter of serious regret that it was not a consolidating measure; but as it is only a partial amendment of the law, and as some of the amendments will probably require a considerable amount of modification, its non-consolidating character may be a subject of congratulation. The mercantile community generally are of opinion that the provisions as to creditors' assignees are such as will deter respectable and competent men of business from accepting the office; and the remuneration of the official assignees being by a fixed salary, deprives the creditors of any guarantee for their activity and zeal.

The "Report of the Special Committee on the Patent Laws" is somewhat obscurely written. The subject-matter of the Report came first before the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and was referred by it to the National Association, upon which a conjoint committee of the two Associations appears to have been formed. The report of this committee was read at Manchester, at the meeting of the British Association. Many matters of detail were discussed by the committee; but their minds were chiefly directed to two important questions.—1. As to the best means of granting letters patent being made in respect of worthless and frivolous inventions; 2. The constitution of a tribunal for the trial of actions for infringement. The first of these resolutions involves two propositions: (a) that all applications for letters patent should be subjected to a preliminary examination; (b) that this examination should be before a special tribunal. The committee was of opinion that the said tribunal should be formed by a permanent and salaried judge, assisted, when necessary, by the advice of scientific assessors; and that its sittings should be public. It is believed by this means greater justice would be done; that the assessors would, in fact, act as jurymen, and that the patent fees would supply sufficient funds to pay the expenses of the proposed new Court. The committee accordingly passed the following resolutions:—

"That the same tribunal should have exclusive jurisdiction to try patent causes, subject to a right of appeal."

"That the scientific assessors for the trial of patent causes should be five in number, to be chosen from a panel of thirty, to be nominated by the Commissioners of Patents, for the adjudication upon facts, when deemed necessary by the judge, or demanded by either of the parties."

"That the right of appeal should be to the

Court of Exchequer Chamber, with a final appeal to the House of Lords."

The committee also passed a resolution to the effect that the jurisdiction of the proposed tribunal should extend to the trial of all questions of copyright and registration of designs.

TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

Sir,—The great practical importance of the points at issue between my able reviewer and myself, has induced me again to trespass on the attention of your readers; for the necessity of *right views* to a *right practice*, on such a subject as the *Transfusion of Blood*, admits of no dispute. The concluding paragraph of the reviewer's interesting remarks and critical strictures upon my letter of the 1st inst., in which he "re-asserts that there is no known distinction between the blood of man and the blood of certain of the inferior animals, of sufficient character to allow it to be for a moment admitted that human blood is specific in its properties, characters, and attributes," when considered in connection with the admitted fact, that in two recorded instances, at least, small quantities of other than human blood had been injected into the veins of a human subject without being followed by serious consequences, may seem calculated to induce the belief that in cases of extreme exhaustion from *floodings*—cases which occasion so much anxiety and alarm to the obstetrical practitioner—recourse may with safety be had to the *transfusion* of other than human blood—for instance, that of the lamb or the calf—into the veins of the dying woman. But however apparent this inference may be, I cannot for a moment suppose that *such is the belief* of a microscopist and physiologist so able and enlightened as my reviewer evidently is. In such a case I feel assured he would not dare to advise the injection of the blood of the ox or the hog, or of any other than human blood, into the veins of the exhausted woman. Since the publication, indeed, of Dr. Blundell's valuable physiological and pathological researches in 1824, no one, to my knowledge, has had the temerity to do so. As a pupil of the worthy Doctor, and, at that time, a young practitioner in midwifery, I took a lively interest in his experimental researches. The Doctor kept a dog alive without food for some weeks by daily injecting a few ounces of blood taken from another healthy dog, into its jugular veins. His experiments on dogs were numerous and varied, but in every instance, without exception, in which human blood was injected, though the animal appeared to revive from the effects of the stimulus, it soon afterwards sickened and died. His success was complete, on the recovery of animals apparently dying from hæmorrhage, by the injection of blood taken from an animal of the *same species* as that into whose veins it was about to be injected; nor was his *failure* less marked when the blood of one species of animal was substituted for that of another. And thus having found that, in all cases of exhaustion from hæmorrhage, where it was necessary to inject a large quantity of blood, the success of the operation was invariably defeated if the blood of one species of animal was substituted for that of another, he very emphatically says, that in operating on the human subject, *human blood should alone be used*, for none other can be employed with safety.

In their experiments on transfusion of blood, Messrs. Prevost and Dumas found that if the blood introduced into the veins of a living animal differs merely in the size and not in the form of its globules, a disturbance or derangement of the whole economy more or less remarkable supervenes, and that death, in fine, generally happens after the lapse of a few days. But that in reference to different species of animals,—for instance, the injection of blood having circular globules, into the veins of an animal the globules of whose blood are elliptical, or *vice versa*,—the effects produced are still more remarkable, for death then usually takes place amidst nervous symptoms of extreme violence, and comparable in

their rapidity to those which follow the introduction of the most energetic poisons into the system.

All the researches that have been made on the *transfusion of blood* tend to establish the fact that the blood in the different species of animals is different; and that in man the life-giving fluid is a fluid *sui generis*, identical in all the human races, but differing from the blood of the ox or the hog; in a word, from that of all the inferior animals.

I readily concede to my reviewer, that the blood corpuscles of man, and of the ox and the hog, closely resemble each other; as closely, indeed, as human corpuscles from different men do each other; nay, as the corpuscles from the same human subject may do, under the varying and modifying influence of disease. But, granting that the most practised microscopic investigator cannot distinguish the one from the other, the revelations of the microscope do not terminate here. For, let three specimens of blood be drawn, one from man, and the two others from the ox and the hog, and then let them be subjected to the same microscopic manipulation or analysis, treated precisely in the same way; if the blood be identical, the results must of course be the same: we should get the same blood crystals. But the fact is notoriously otherwise, and unless there can be a *distinction* without a *difference*, in such a case I must pertinaciously adhere to the opinion that human blood as it circulates through the system is a living fluid *sui generis*.

Besides, it remains to be shown that the albumen, extractive matter, and other chemical components of the blood of these specimens are exactly identical before it can be affirmed that the blood of man is a fluid of the same composition as that of these animals.

It is a well-known fact that the smell of the blood of different animals is very different, and the odour resulting from the action of strong sulphuric acid on the blood of man and animals is so different, that some assert that by the smell alone it could be stated from what animal the blood had been drawn.

As to not being able to distinguish under the microscope the blood corpuscles of man from those of the ox or the hog, I might, in return, challenge my reviewer, or any other physicist, to say which of two specimens under the microscope was the nucleus of a nerve-cell of man, and which that from one of the very lowest of the inferior animals? I challenge him to point out any difference between them, or to distinguish the one from the other. And yet he knows as well as I do, that, while they look alike, and grow in the same order, they will not live and grow under the same conditions, or upon the same kind of pabulum, and that the substances resulting from their growth are by no means the same; and hence, I maintain, his not being able to detect any difference in the form of the blood corpuscles in man, the ox, and the hog, is no proof whatever that their blood is identical.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.,

ROBERT DUNN, F.R.C.S.

31, Norfolk Street, March 15, 1862.

P.S.—Errata in last letter:—In the concluding paragraph, for *genus* read *germs*, and for *or*, *as*.

As a final reply to the arguments of our correspondent we add:—

1. That not small but large quantities of other than human blood have been injected into the vessels of the human subject without a fatal result; and that, in our belief, nothing but popular prejudice stands in the way of applying the blood of certain animals by transfusion in fatal instances of hæmorrhage.

2. While we admit that the researches of Dr. Blundell and of Prevost and Dumas are of weight, we affirm on direct personal knowledge, that the blood of the ox may be injected into the exhausted vessels of another animal, say a dog, with the effect simply and purely of restoring the departing life. We reason on this that failures in such operations are due to coincidental causes, rather than to the fact of the employment of a different blood. At the same time, we admit that there probably is a limitation to the operation; and that the blood of *any one animal* will not subserve the purposes of *every other animal*.

3. We re-assert that the blood-crystal test, itself an after-death result, and modified therefore by external influences, is not a sufficient test for human blood. We affirm also, from personal knowledge, that human blood does not yield a specific crystal of hæmato-crystalline. Mr. Dunn will look for himself on these points: we know he must either agree with us afterwards, or disbelieve his own visual sense for the sake of an hypothesis; an effort of faith against evidence of which we cannot assume him capable, knowing how really untrammelled he is as an investigator of natural truths.

4. It rests with Mr. Dunn to prove that there is a difference in the albumen and extractive matters of blood derived from man, and such inferior animals as the ox and the hog, before he uses, as an argument, the worth of any such differences. In truth, this point has never yet been inquired into with any degree of precision; and whenever Mr. Dunn chooses to enlighten us upon it, from positive experimental proof, we shall be glad to learn from him: until then, we cannot accept a negative more than a positive without evidence.

5. We ignore altogether the nonsense which some pseudo-scientific, medico-judicial, make-out-a-case men have written respecting the smell of blood, and the influence of sulphuric acid in eliciting different odours. We offer again to place the blood of six animals before any physicist, and challenge him on this test to make a selection of any one of the specimens. We are really surprised that Mr. Dunn should repeat this startling fallacy: if he will not believe us as to the fallacy, we must again refer him to Nature.

We need not discuss the last argument brought forward by Mr. Dunn, further than to say that, while we admit all his analogies—identities, if he likes—respecting nerve-cells, the inference he draws is inadmissible; for the results, as regards each individual cell, are the same in all animals, the variations observed depending on the aggregation of the particular parts; in other words, on mass and arrangement. A square-cut stone in St. Paul's Cathedral produces a certain result not producible by a similar stone in the wall of a shed; but the identity of the individual stones may be perfect.

REVIEWER.

SOCIETIES.

BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

March 12.—Sir Stafford H. Northcote, Bart., M.P., C.B., M.A., President, in the chair.

Henry Thomas Riley, Esq., M.A., and Charles Hopper, Esq., were elected Associates. Thanks were returned for various presents.

Lieut. Ingall exhibited javelin-blades, remains of fletche vessels, &c., exhumed from the mounds in North America. The former were leaf-shaped, and formed of grey hornstone. The pottery was from Green Bay Lake, Michigan, being portions of urns and cups, formed of a sandy clay, mingled with angular fragments of quartz. They were ornamented with incised lines and dots.

Mr. Syer Cumming exhibited two examples of the Parisian forgeries in lead, professed to have been recovered from the Seine, which a few years since excited much attention among archaeologists. The figures are grotesque, and worked out of solid metal. One is equipped in a long vest, and has a pectoral cross, with the figures 153 in Arabic numerals; the other represents a jester, with a human-headed bauble. Mr. Forman possesses also three specimens of the same description, said to have been found in the Rue Rivoli—a shrine enclosing an image, an ecclesiastic with a crosier, and another figure holding a saw, probably meant to be emblematic of St. Simon and St. James the Less.

Mr. Cumming read a paper on the *Signacula* found in London.

Mr. Oliver exhibited a Grant of Arms, by Charles V. to his Secretary, John de Langhe, dated Brussels, August 27, 1531. It is signed by the Emperor, and the arms are emblazoned in the centre of the document.

Dr. W. Pettigrew exhibited a finely-carved tiller, said to have belonged to the row-boat of Queen Elizabeth. It probably formed a restoration, as the workmanship is of the time of James, and, it was suggested, had a Spanish character.

Mr. Ainslie exhibited a gold crown of James I., having on the reverse *Henricus Rosas Regna Jacobus*, in allusion to the union of the two roses by Henry VII. and the two kingdoms by James.

Dr. Kendrick exhibited an impression of the seal of Prince Charles, afterwards Charles I.

Mr. Baigent exhibited an impression of a seal found at Stoke Charity, Hants, and traced it as that of Richard Holt, who married a lady of that place, Christine, sole daughter and heiress of Thomas Coltrithe, a descendant of the founder of the Cistercian Priory at Witteney.

Mr. Halliwell communicated a paper on some unpublished works of William Basse, the author of the earliest elegy on Shakespeare.

Mr. Cumming laid before the meeting some Devon and Exeter cloth seals of lead found in the Thames near London Bridge, in 1846, and conjectured to have fallen therein from the Woollen Drapers, who were known to have carried on their calling upon the Bridge at the time of the great fire in 1666.

Mr. Thomas Wright exhibited a photograph of one of the entrances into the Roman lead-mines at Shelve, in Salop, viewed by the Association at their Shrewsbury Congress in 1860.

The evening concluded by the reading of a paper by Mr. Edward Leven, "On some Unpublished Letters relating to the Captivity of Charles I., at Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, and the Attempts to effect his Escape." They abound with interesting personal traits of the monarch, and the paper will be printed in the Journal.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.

March 12.—Sir H. C. Rawlinson, Vice-President, in the chair.

Mr. Vaux read a paper "On the Excavations at Cyrene," in which he gave a full account of the researches made at this interesting place by Lieut. Smith, R.E., an officer who, as is well known, was attached to Mr. Newton during his examination of the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, and at other places along the south-west coast of Asia Minor, and to whom we owe the first idea of the restoration of that famous building which has been published by Mr. Newton in his recent volume. Lieut. Smith spent several months at Cyrene in the winter and spring of 1861, and was fortunate enough to make a series of discoveries which have greatly enriched the national collection. Among these is a remarkably fine statue of Apollo Citharedus, about whose date, though many critics differ, the best informed are inclined to consider it a genuine Greek work of the Macedonian or Post-Alexandrian age; or, if not, as a copy of a first-class work of that period, made during the Augustan times. Besides this, which, had it been the sole result of Lieut. Smith's labours, would be justly held to have repaid him amply, nearly 200 other objects of greater or less interest were found by him; among which may be particularized statues of Diana, Bacchus, Æsculapius, Venus, &c. Some admirable busts of Roman emperors, such as Antoninus Pius, Aurelius, Faustina junior, &c., and a large number of statuettes, some very small and beautifully preserved, and some curious bas-reliefs.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

March 15.—Anniversary Meeting: Right Hon. Sir John S. Pakington, Bart., M.P., President, in the chair.

The Honorary Secretaries read the report of the Council and of the Auditors, and the abstract of receipts and payments. The report alluded to the loss which the Society had sustained by the death of its Patron, H.R.H. the late Prince Consort. H.R.H. had been connected with the Society since 1840, had attended several of its meetings, and had always manifested the warmest interest in its welfare.

A ballot was taken for the President, Council, and Officers, for the ensuing twelve months.

ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

March 18.—J. Crawford, Esq., President, in the chair.

The new members elected were—C. H. Chambers, Esq.; Erasmus Darwin, Esq.; the Rev. C. Kingsley, Professor of History at Cambridge; H. Parker, Esq., C.B., H.M. Consul at Shanghai; Lieut.-Col. Phayre, H.M. Commissioner, Pegu; Gerald Perry, Esq., H.M. Consul French Guinea; A. W. Sanderson, Esq.; J. T. White, Esq.

The papers read were, "On the Ancient Indian Tombs at Chiriqui, in Veragua, Isthmus of Darien," by William Bollaert, Esq., F.R.G.S.; and a "Note on some Stone Celts," from the same place, by C. Carter Blake, Esq.

Columbus on his last voyage discovered the east coast of a region on the mainland of America called Veragua. It was here that the Spaniards met for the first time with pure gold, the natives wearing large plates of it suspended from their necks. Very soon after gold mines were worked by them in that district, at a place called Chiriqui, or the "Valley of the Moon." When the Spaniards discovered the country the early civilization of its former inhabitants had then been long lost, and the people of Darien participated in the then existing institutions of Cuba and Hayti. In their burial places the aborigines never failed to leave valuable remains of gold ornaments and figures of birds, beasts, &c., pottery, and sculptured stones. At the time of the Conquest these parts were inhabited by a large tribe, the Durachos, and everywhere now are found their tombs and monuments, and columns covered with figures are met with. At Caldera, five leagues N.N.E. from David, lies a block of granite, the "Pietra Pintal," fifteen feet high and fifty feet in circumference, covered with representations of the sun, human heads, scorpions, and hieroglyphics. This sculpture is attributed to the Durachos, but Mr. Bollaert thinks it must be the work of a more ancient race, and intended to commemorate some portion of their history. The characters were cut an inch deep, but on the weather-side they are nearly effaced. He thinks, therefore, an enormous time must have elapsed before the granite could thus have been worn away. Several inscribed columns are to be seen in the town of David, but the characters on them differ from these in being more raised and considerably smaller.

The Chiriqui tombs were discovered in numbers between the 1st and 15th June, 1859, and Dr. William Dupree sent to the author a large collection of antiquities from them, but which were unfortunately lost by the wrecking of the vessel bringing them over sea. However, through the kindness of Mr. Power, he had been furnished with drawings of much of the lost pottery, as well as of many of the gold articles. Gold objects had been found many years before, principally at Bugábita. On July 12th of that year there were fifteen hundred persons at work, digging the graves. The plain of Bugábita is a mile square, surrounded by mountains; in the centre is a mound of stones, thought to be artificial, four or five yards high. All around it are the "huacas de deposito," or tombs containing gold. Outside are the "huacas de sepultura," or tombs without gold; these are covered with flat stones; the former with stones laid on the surface in the form of circles, crosses, fives, and rows, semicircles, and rings, with four equidistant larger blocks. All manner of forms of New World animals in gold are found, but no representation of any animals of the Old World; with the gold figures are the finest pottery, and tools (chisels) of hard stone, hatchets, and celts. In August, 1859, two hundred and fifty pounds weight of gold had been extracted from these graves, two-thirds being good gold, the remainder tumbaga or guanin gold: the value was about £12,500.

Since then other tombs have been discovered, and the whole of this portion of the Isthmus of Darien appears to be a vast cemetery. The Indians believe these graves to be those of their ancestors, but they show no repugnance at having them opened. The treasures of these tombs were discovered by the falling of a large tree that had grown on the top of one of the mounds. Amongst

the gold objects are bats, frogs, alligators, hideous grotesque and obscene figures, guacamays or sacred parrots, human figures, pumas, tapirs, parrots with human bodies, and birds with four heads. All these were cast hollow, and had one or two rings, so that they might be suspended in a temple or round the neck of a dead body.

This region possesses a magnificent tropical climate, and being abundantly supplied with animal and vegetable life, was where masses of red men would naturally congregate. In the Durachos, the author thinks he perceives the remains of a portion of the Chorotegan nation of Nicaragua.

The gold ornaments found in these graves he supposes to be of Durachos origin, and from five hundred to seven hundred years old. But the carvers of such monuments as the "Pietra Pintal" were an earlier race; and there are other sculptures on stone in this region pointing to even a still earlier date. All these works appear to have been the result of a civilization peculiar to these races, and not in any way imported from the Old World. One celt has been found, with others, apparently indicating, by its rougher degree of workmanship, a nation of long prior date to the Durachos, and of a lower degree of civilization. The Indians of the New World are accustomed to preserve with care monuments of their ancestors, and it is possible this celt may have been buried as a sacred object in a tomb of a much later date than that of its original manufacturer.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

March 19.—J. J. Mechi, Esq., Alderman, in the chair.

The paper read was "On the Sewerage of Towns," by Robert Rawlinson, C.E. The author, after speaking of the early history of sewerage as existing in ancient times, said, that although the first formation of public sewers in the British metropolis dates as far back as 1428, by far the greater portion of the main sewers in London have been constructed since the year 1824. Mr. John Roe having had the perseverance, honour, and credit of effecting more improvements in the main sewers of his districts, Holborn and Finsbury, up to the end of his period of service, than any other man. It was to be remarked, that London shows a diminished death-rate in proportion to the abolition of the cesspools, although the sewerage was still defective, and the river Thames foul. Many thousands of cesspools had been abolished in the metropolis, probably not less than a hundred thousand, within the last twenty years, but many thousands remained. In the manufacturing towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire the drainage was more defective, and the death-rate higher. The author maintained, that if all the sewers were of sectional dimensions, forms, and gradients (as they might be) to transmit fresh sewage, and not retain it until putrefaction sets in, the public health would be further improved. The full and proper ventilation of sewers and drains was of the utmost importance: drains should be so laid and arranged as to render contamination of the air, within houses, by sewage gases impossible. Sewers should not pass beneath houses, and drains should commence at external walls, so that neither sewer nor drain should be beneath the basement of any house. Mr. Rawlinson gave, in considerable detail, descriptions of the systems of sewerage adopted at Carlisle, Wigan, Worksop, Buxton, and other places, with particulars of their cost.

A discussion ensued, in which the Chairman, Earl of Essex, Dr. Stenhouse, Mr. Hagwood, and others took part.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MONDAY.—*Institute of Actuaries*, 7.—On the Statistics of First and Subsequent Marriages among the Families of the Peerage, considered specially with reference to the calculation of Premiums for Assurances against Issue, by Archibald Day, Esq.

Royal Geographical Society, 8½.—On the Exploring Expedition to the Western Borders of China, and the Upper Waters of the Yang-tse-kiang, by Dr. A. Barton.—Notes on the Country to the West of Canton, by Lieutenant Oliver, R.A.

TUESDAY.—*Royal Institution*, 3.—On the Physiology of the Sense, by John Marshall, Esq.
Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.

Zoological Society, 9.—On the Structure, Form, and Capacity of the Gall-bladder, and on the Colour of the Bile in Vertebrate Animals, by Dr. Crisp; and other papers.

WEDNESDAY.—*Royal Society of Literature*, 4½.
Society of Arts, 8.—On the Commerce of our Colonies, and their Cost, by Henry Ashworth.
British Archaeological Association, 8½.—On Seals bearing a date, by Mr. Syer Cuning.

THURSDAY.—*Royal Institution*, 3.—On Heat, by Professor Tyndall.

FRIDAY.—*Royal United Service Institution*, 3.
Royal Institution, 8.—An Explanation of the Meteorological Electric Telegraphy, and its basis, now under trial at the Board of Trade, by Admiral Fitzroy, F.R.S.

SATURDAY.—*Royal Institution*, 3.—On Spectrum Analysis, by Professor Henry Enfield Roscoe.

FINE ARTS.

Illustrated Songs of Robert Burns. (For the Members of the Royal Association for the Promotion of the Fine Arts in Scotland. 1861.)

THE illustrations in this work are six in number, all engravings on steel of the best kind, and each accompanied by a print of the poem which it is intended to represent. Most appropriately the compositions have been left to Scottish artists, who alone are competent to describe Scotch pastorals with their appropriate features; and amongst whom are not wanting sparks of the compatriot genius which is able to do justice to that part of the national poet which is universal and immortal. That any great exhibition however, of merit of this high class is here to be found, we do not say. First, there is a frontispiece consisting of an engraving by A. Robinson, after the portrait by Alexander Nasmyth, painted in 1787, and now, as we learn, in the joint possession of Colonels William and James Burns. Next, a design illustrative of the ballad "Ca' the Yowes to the Knowes," painted by George Harvey, R.S.A., in 1860, and engraved by Lamb Stocks, R.A. The work is of the best kind, as we have said, and brilliant in cleverly-designed contrasts of light and shade. Thirdly, a scene in the Highlands, imaginary to a great extent, as we must believe, from the vast variety of picturesque elements introduced. This is engraved by William Forrest, after Horatio McCulloch, R.S.A. The foreground of this engraving is like a transcript of the crisp and glossy drawing and shading one used to admire in the works of T. Milton, whilst the distant parts are almost overdone in the variety of broken and contrasted lights. This work, when closely examined, will be found full of the utmost study, skill, and resource. The fourth is by Robert C. Bell, after Erskine Nicol, R.S.A., in illustration of "The Braw Wooser," with the lassie giving the "blink" which has become imperishable in ballad history—a characteristic and lively scene. The fifth is called "The Lea-Rig," showing a simple and tasteful composition of figures and cattle, by J. Archer, engraved by C. W. Sharpe; and the series closes with "Logan Braes," another figure subject, by Lamb Stocks, after Alexander E. Burr. The collection forms an elegant ornamental book for the drawing-room table.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

Songs and Tunes for Education. By John Curwen. (Ward and Co.). This is a collection (put forward by one of the originators of the Tonic Sol-fa system), of simple, and at the same time attractive melodies, drawn from all available sources, and arranged so as to form a pianoforte accompaniment when they are sung, three parts being assigned to the right hand and the bass to the left. Had they been written in what is technically called "compressed" or "short" score, two parts in each clef, the sphere of their usefulness would have been considerably extended. Many of these airs are the composition of Joseph Gersbach, a German musician (1787–1830), whose untiring labours (corresponding to the efforts of the Tonic Sol-fa Association amongst us) in the promotion of musical knowledge amongst the poorer classes, and the youth of both sexes, date

from his first introduction to Pestalozzi at Yverdon. Some of his sweetest songs from the "Singvöglein" and the "Wandervöglein" are included in the little work now under notice, which also comprehends the more familiar melodies from our own native sources, such as "In my Cottage," "Blue Bells," and Pearsall's "Hardy Norseman." In each case, however, the original words are discarded to make room for expressions of a moral or religious cast—a proceeding against which we entered our protest on a former occasion in the columns of this journal. The songs, of which there are about two hundred and sixty in all, are harmonized in a simple but judicious manner by Mr. Turle, the organist of Westminster Abbey, and the whole costs but half-a-crown; that is, at the rate of about eight songs for one penny. Surely the force of cheapness can no further go.

ST. JAMES'S.—Our modern playwrights, mindful perhaps of Mr. Sner's distinction between "translation" and "taking from the French," attempt a compromise between the two systems. They transplant as well as translate. Altering neither the plot nor the characters, they Anglicize the names and change the scene; and, placing before us French incidents and French morality, set forth their work as a picture of English society. Thus, Mr. Horace Wigan, in transforming "Nos Intimes" into "Friends or Foes," has substituted for M. and Mme. Caussade, an English husband and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Union, by no means to the improvement of M. Sardou's comedy. The brilliancy of the dialogue may remain untarnished, and the hero may bear with the same patience the various annoyances imposed on him by the selfishness and malice of the false friends among whom he distributes his hospitality; but the more serious plot, which depends on a very narrow escape of the hero's wife from the consequences of too warm an interest in the health of a rash young lover, contains such strong traces of the land of its origin that the audience are forced to discard their English notions, to admire Mr. Union's sense of honour when he is ready to fight a duel with a neighbour who throws cabbage-stalks over the wall, and actually to applaud when, instead of adopting the approved resource of blowing out his brains on the suspicion of his wife's infidelity, he employs his pistol for the unsportsman-like purpose of shooting a fox. With a due allowance, however, for these defects, and after considerable abridgment, the piece, in its English form, will merit high praise. The characters of the hollow friends, to exhibit which is the sole business of the first two acts, are admirably drawn, though their rudeness is sometimes excessive; and in the remaining acts, the ready devices of the true friend, Dr. Bland (Mr. Dewar), to save the reputation of the repentant wife, effectually prevent the interest from flagging. Mr. George Vining sustains with great skill and good taste the part of the kind-hearted hero, whose wife is ably represented by the graceful Miss Herbert. The other parts are remarkably well filled, Mr. Frank Matthews giving all his force of humour to Mr. Yielding, the selfish guest, who always consults his own comfort as a high favour bestowed on others. Nothing can exceed the elegant manner in which the piece is put on the stage. The sunny effect of a hot summer's day in a pretty flower-garden overlooking a bright English landscape, is managed with high artistic skill.

HAYMARKET.—A short drama of serious interest, from the careful pen of Mr. Westland Marston, has been produced, under the name of "The Wife's Portrait." David Lindsay, a classical tutor and man of letters, having an exalted notion of the dignity of literature, refuses to seek popularity by adapting his works to the public taste, and consequently remains poor. His wife, who, out of his scanty purse, has to provide for the household expenses and the education of two children, takes a more practical view of life. Hence arise coolness and want of sympathy in the married state. But a short absence, and the sight of his wife's portrait as she appeared to him in the days of his courtship, suffice to rekindle Lindsay's early love, while a re-

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port that he has perished in a collision of steamers on the Clyde brings back in her despair the affection of his better half. While mutual confidence is thus being restored, a favourable review of one of our hero's works, obtained through the friendly exertions of a practised author, named *Dexter*, affords an earnest of future prosperity. The dialogue is well written, with considerable point; but the piece mainly owes its success to the genuine good acting of Mr. Howe and Mrs. Charles Young, as the poet and the poet's wife. Mr. W. Farren also plays his part well as the kind-hearted *Dexter*.

DRURY LANE.—There are perhaps no two actors on the English stage whose styles afford a more perfect contrast than Charles Kean and Charles Fechter. To illustrate this, it would be difficult to find a better example than their respective impersonations of *Othello*. In the part of the Moor, not all the elaborate finish and ease of action of the latter gentleman could save him from failure; while a legitimate triumph is achieved by the former, in spite of stage tricks and theatrical mouthings. For the mannerism by which Mr. Kean gains the applause of a Drury Lane gallery, has no more to do with his real success, than was the graceful detail of M. Fechter's essay the cause of disappointment in the stalls of the Princess's. The lesson to be learned from a comparison of the two performances is one which applies to every kind of art. It was proved by M. Fechter, that no amount of delicate handling will cure a want of vigour in the conception, however ingenious that conception may be; while Mr. Kean shows us that a grand design, be it original, or be it derived from tradition, will assert its intrinsic worth, though overlaid with false or conventional detail. In exhibiting the character of *Othello*, remarkable as it is for intensity of feeling, rather than refinements of cultivated thought, this first rough conception is of more than ordinary importance. A weakness there, was the root of M. Fechter's failure. Mr. Kean, however, besides having a firm grasp of the character as a whole, has in the filling up of portions of his design an opportunity of displaying some of the best qualities of his art. The power he possesses of depicting physical emotion is put forth with wonderful effect in the attempt to master the burning tears which drop

"Fast as the Arabian trees
Their medicinal gum."

Nothing can well be finer than his awakening jealousy. His calm dignity in the earlier scenes, and his calm despair in the last, are finely contrasted with the impetuosity of his rage in the fourth act, when his energy is often exerted with powerful effect. Occasionally, in the set speeches of the first act, he drops into the old seasaw of emphasis—that sort of theatrical monotone which serves for all passages alike; and, in the more impassioned scenes, he sometimes descends to mere roaring and even to jumping. Apart from these blemishes, for which tradition can form no excuse, Mr. Kean's performance of *Othello* merits high praise, and it is probably the best of his Shaksperian characters.

Mrs. Kean, in the part of *Emilia*, acts with great animation and a cultivated taste. A marked admiration bestowed on *Iago* in the earlier acts greatly enhances the depth of her horror at the suspicion and final confirmation of his villainy. Mr. Roxby's *Roderigo* is much above mediocrity. He makes him, not a ridiculous fool, but an unprincipled, weak-headed gentleman, not devoid of personal courage. Of Mr. Cathcart's *Iago* we are compelled, by certain injudicious plaudits, to say that it is not merely unworthy of criticism, but offensively bad.

OLYMPIC.—A pleasant French comedy in three acts, called "The World of Fashion," being a version by Mr. John Oxenford of Messrs. Scribe and Legouvé's "Les Doigts d'une Fée," was brought out on Monday. It has all the life and spirit of the modern French drama without the customary taint of intrigue and low morality. A bare account of the plot gives a poor idea of the entertainment, which is due to the lightness of the author's pen, the ease and neatness of action and dialogue, and the ad-

mirable acting of the company. The story told is of a poor member of a noble family, *Marie de Vieux Châteaux* (Miss Amy Sedgwick), who, preferring a life of independent industry to the cold patronage of haughty relatives, raises herself by her talents to the important position of *première modiste* in Paris. There, using her power over influential wives, she steers a projected railway into her uncle's estate, and so saves her proud relations from ruin. There also, drawing her new purse-strings, she pays the gambling debts of his scapegrace son. Not quite so satisfactory is her constancy in love to this same silly spendthrift. There is a certain warm-hearted stammering friend, *M. de Pontalec* (Mr. H. Neville), who, never fluent but in her defence, aids and supports her throughout her changing fortunes. Albeit her amiable and pretty cousin *Isabelle* (Miss Hughes) is this young gentleman's choice, we cannot but feel that he is the proper person for the heroine's hand. But the author has thought otherwise, and at any rate has not tired us with clap-trap sentiment. Instead of this, he depends for his effect on the manner in which the several characters are brought together and contrasted. The selfish inconsistency of the proud relations; their worship changed to scorn on finding that their magnificent niece is only a milliner; the social effects of a ruling passion for dress; and the petty jealousies of rival belles; these are the subjects on which he exercises his skill. Miss Amy Sedgwick is as pleasing as usual, with less show of study; and Mr. H. Neville, as *M. de Pontalec*, has increased his rising reputation as one of our few players who can really act a gentleman. He displays no small tact and sense of humour in the clever use he makes of a well-assumed impediment of speech. We must add a word of praise for the ladies' dresses, which do great credit to the costumier. To those who go to a theatre neither for violent excitement nor deep intellectual study, but for cheerful recreation, we commend this little comedy. Indeed, the whole evening's entertainment here deserves the warm support of all whose finer taste recoils from the ordinary stuff got up at theatres to please the gallery or humour the pit.

STRAND.—This week the audience have been laughing nightly at a new farce by Mr. J. Maddison Morton, written in his well-known eccentric style, and called "Catching a Weasel." The fun of the piece is brought about by an exaggeration of an odious character sometimes met with in real life—a young gentleman who conceives himself specially wide-awake, and that everybody else is bent on defrauding him. Mr. James Rogers is the hero.

DUDLEY GALLERY.—Miss Grace Egerton (Mrs. G. Case) is here repeating the same entertainment she gave last year at the Bijou Theatre. Her impersonations vary in merit, but, on the whole, exhibit considerable talent.

OMNIANA.

Spindlers.—In the Register of Daniel Roughe, town-clerk of Romney in the reign of Edward III., the following entry occurs, being a letter addressed by the town of Hythe to the town of Romney:—"Bref de lai marine. A l'our très chers confrères, etc. Saluts, etc. Chers frères, à la démonstration de notre bien-ami combaron W. Baione, avoms entendu que com le dit W. fust peschant en la myer ove ces spindlers, le vendredi prochein après la feste de la purification Notre Dame ore prochein passé, ci vynt la tempeste de la mior sur lui, par kai en salvacion de lui et de sa compagne lessa ces spindlers et se traia al havene de Romene. Et le dit W. le mekerdi prochein suant ala al mior pur quere ces dits spindlers et avant sa venue vynt un Johan Lucas votre recant et justizable, et trova ces dits spindlers, et les amena od lui. Puis le dit W. maunda al avant dit J. Lucas d'avoir ces spindlers delivérés, rendant al dit J. pur son travail ceo que la lai marine vodra demander. Mes lui détiént a son gref damage de XXs, par kai, chers frères, vous

proms franchement en aide de droit, que vous plesse amonestre et, si mester seit, justizer le dit J. qui face livre de dits spindlers al susdit W. rendant a lui pur son travail resonablement ceo que lai marine vodra agardier. A° xxviii°."—Translation: "Letter of Marine Law. To their very dear brethren, &c., health, &c. Dear brethren, on the showing of our well-beloved fellow-baron, W. Baione, we have heard that as the said W. was fishing in the sea with his spindlers, the Friday next after the feast of the purification of our Lady now last past, there came the tempest of the sea upon him, whereby for the preservation of him and his crew he left his spindlers and betook (?) himself to the haven of Romney. And the said W. the Wednesday next following went to sea to seek his said spindlers, and before his arrival there came one John Lucas, your townsman and justiciable, and found his said spindlers, and carried them off with him. Then the said W. sent to the aforesaid J. Lucas to have his spindlers given up, paying to the said J. for his trouble that which the Marine Law shall require. But he detains them, to his grave damage of 20s. Wherefore, dear brethren, we pray you freely in aid of right, that it may please you to admonish, and if need be compel, the said J. that he make delivery of the said spindlers to the abovenamed W., he paying to him for his trouble reasonably that which Marine Law shall award. Year 28th (1354)."

These spindlers must be some kind of net. Is such a name known on the Kentish coast at the present day? What is the exact meaning of the word *treer* in the phrase *se trea al havene de Romene*? Is it the equivalent of the nautical word *try*, which is defined to mean to let a vessel lie alone on the sea under a single sail? Roughe's Register, preserved in the library of St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, contains the customal of Romney, copies of several charters, and a great variety of documents relating to the legal proceedings of the Cinque Ports.

G.

Egyptian Tablet.—In reference to an Egyptian tablet lately acquired by the British Museum, to the suspicious appearance of which a correspondent lately called attention in our columns, we have received the following note from another correspondent, whose accuracy as to facts may be depended upon:—

"The tablet alluded to by your correspondent of the 1st instant, was formerly in the Museum of the Royal United Service Institution, and appears in their *Catalogue of Antiquities, Arms, Curiosities, &c.* (8vo, London, 1838, page 5, Egyptian Section No. 1), as 'A hieroglyphic inscription on two slabs three feet and a half in length, from Thebes, presented by Captain R. Bruce, R.N.' At the sale of this collection, by Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson, in 1861, it was sold as lot 196 for five shillings. The stone of which it is made resembles that of other tablets in the Egyptian gallery of the British Museum, and is from an Egyptian quarry. The inscription is badly cut, and has some suspicious points about it; the contents, however, are unimportant, consisting of invocations to Osiris, such as occur on coffins and other monuments. It is not a text of historical or other interest which would have been likely to invite the skill of a forger, except of one very uninitiated in a knowledge of Egyptian monuments, and who copied or extracted from such monuments as were nearest to his hand without further consideration. That the tablet may be an imitation is indeed just as possible as that (if genuine) 'the blundering stone-cutter' (so the Egyptian mason has been termed by certain chronologists) should have made some of those patent blunders which occur occasionally on tablets even of early time; while some of the rituals of later days of undoubted authenticity, having been made for the undertakers, and only intended for the dead, and probably never even examined by the living, are occasionally made up in parts of mere repetitions and mutilated extracts, full of philological mistakes and blunders. True or false, the fact that this inscription has been openly exhibited for the last twenty-four years in a public museum unchallenged entitles it to be visible to the inspection of the curious and the observations of the critical, until accumulated observations shall have decided as to its authenticity."

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